

**Register** at 51 FR 31901. The weight of imported pork and pork products is converted to a carcass weight equivalent by utilizing conversion factors which are published in the Department's Statistical Bulletin No. 697 "Conversion Factors and Weights and Measures." These conversion factors take into account the removal of bone, weight lost in cooking or other processing, and the nonpork components of pork products. Secondly, the carcass weight equivalent is converted to a live animal equivalent weight by dividing the carcass weight equivalent by 70 percent, which is the average dressing percentage of porcine animals in the United States. Thirdly, the equivalent value of the live porcine animal is determined by multiplying the live animal equivalent weight by an annual average market price for barrows and gilts based on information reported by USDA, AMS, LGMN Branch. Finally, the equivalent value is multiplied by the applicable assessment rate of 0.45 percent due on imported pork and pork products. The end result is expressed in an amount per pound for each type of pork or pork product. To determine the amount per kilogram for pork and pork products subject to assessment under the Act and Order, the cent per pound assessments are multiplied by a metric conversion factor 2.2046 and carried to the sixth decimal.

The formula in the preamble for the Order at 51 FR 31901 contemplated that it would be necessary to recalculate the equivalent live animal value of imported pork and pork products to reflect changes in the annual average price of domestic barrows and gilts to maintain equity of assessments between domestic porcine animals and imported pork and pork products.

The average annual market price decreased from \$51.30 per hundredweight in 1997 to \$31.82 per hundredweight in 1998, a decrease of about 38 percent. This decrease would result in a corresponding decrease in assessments for all HTS numbers listed in the table in § 1230.110, 63 FR 45935; August 28, 1998, of an amount equal to sixteen-hundredths of a cent per pound, or as expressed in cents per kilogram, thirty-three hundredths of a cent per kilogram. Based on the most recent available Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, data on the volume of imported pork and pork products available for the period January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998, the proposed decrease in assessment amounts would result in an estimated \$888,000 decrease in assessments over a 12-month period.

This proposed rule provides for a 30-day comment period. This comment

period is appropriate because the proposed rule simply provides for an adjustment in the per pound assessment levels on imported pork and pork products to reflect changes in live hog prices which occurred from 1997 to 1998. These live hog prices form the basis for the assessments. This adjustment, if adopted, should be made effective as soon as possible to promote optimum equity.

**List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1230**

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Agricultural research, Marketing agreement, Meat and meat products, Pork and pork products.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, it is proposed that 7 CFR Part 1230 be amended as follows:

**PART 1230—PORK PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION**

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR Part 1230 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 4801–4819.

**Subpart B—[Amended]**

2. In § 1230.110 paragraph (b) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 1230.110 Assessments on imported pork and pork products.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) The following HTS categories of imported pork and pork products are subject to assessment at the rates specified.

Pork and pork products	Assessment	
	cents/lb	cents/kg
0203.11.0000 .....	.20	.440920
0203.12.1010 .....	.20	.440920
0203.12.1020 .....	.20	.440920
0203.12.9010 .....	.20	.440920
0203.12.9020 .....	.20	.440920
0203.19.2010 .....	.24	.529104
0203.19.2090 .....	.24	.529104
0203.19.4010 .....	.20	.440920
0203.19.4090 .....	.20	.440920
0203.21.0000 .....	.20	.440920
0203.22.1000 .....	.20	.440920
0203.22.9000 .....	.20	.440920
0203.29.2000 .....	.24	.529104
0203.29.4000 .....	.20	.440920
0206.30.0000 .....	.20	.440920
0206.41.0000 .....	.20	.440920
0206.49.0000 .....	.20	.440920
0210.11.0010 .....	.20	.440920
0210.11.0020 .....	.20	.440920
0210.12.0020 .....	.20	.440920
0210.12.0040 .....	.20	.440920
0210.19.0010 .....	.24	.529104
0210.19.0090 .....	.24	.529104
1601.00.2010 .....	.28	.617288
1601.00.2090 .....	.28	.617288

Pork and pork products	Assessment	
	cents/lb	cents/kg
1602.41.2020 .....	.31	.683426
1602.41.2040 .....	.31	.683426
1602.41.9000 .....	.20	.440920
1602.42.2020 .....	.31	.683426
1602.42.2040 .....	.31	.683426
1602.42.4000 .....	.20	.440920
1602.49.2000 .....	.28	.617288
1602.49.4000 .....	.24	.529104

Dated: June 4, 1999.

**Barry L. Carpenter,**

*Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.*

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**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

[Notice 1999–8]

**11 CFR Part 110**

**Candidate Debates**

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**ACTION:** Petition for rulemaking; notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** On May 25, 1999, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking from Mary Clare Wohlford, William T. Wohlford and Martin T. Mortimer urging the Commission to amend its rules so that the objective criteria for inclusion in Presidential and Vice Presidential debates is established by the Commission itself, and not left to the discretion of debate staging organizations. This petition is available for inspection in the Commission's Public Records Office.

**DATES:** Statements in support of or in opposition to the petitions must be filed on or before July 12, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to Rosemary C. Smith, Senior Attorney, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written comments should be sent to the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463. Faxed comments should be sent to (202) 219–3923, with printed copy follow up. Electronic mail comments should be sent to debates@fec.gov, and should include the full name, electronic mail address and postal service address of the commenter. Additional information on electronic submission is provided below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rosemary C. Smith, Senior Attorney, or Paul Sanford, Staff Attorney, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463, (202) 694–1650 or (800) 424–9530.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 25, 1999, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking from Mary Clare Wohlford, William T. Wohlford and Martin T. Mortimer regarding the Commission's candidate debate regulations at 11 CFR 110.13. Paragraph (c) of that section states, *inter alia*, that "[f]or all debates, staging organization(s) must use pre-established objective criteria to determine which candidates may participate in a debate." *Id.* The petitioners assert that the objective criteria for inclusion in Presidential and Vice Presidential debates should be established by the Commission itself, and not left to the discretion of debate staging organizations. Therefore, the petition urges the Commission to revise this paragraph to set forth "mandatory criteria for participation in Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates." Petition at 1.

Specifically, the petition recommends that the debates be open to any candidate that (1) has the mathematical potential to win the election in that he or she is on the ballot in enough states to earn 270 Electoral College votes; and (2) has proven his or her viability by having spent at least \$500,000 on the campaign by the end of the month preceding the date of the first scheduled debate held on or after September 1 of the election year. In addition, the petition recommends that candidates have equal access to debates held before September 1 without regard to the above requirements.

Copies of the petitions are available for public inspection in the Commission's Public Records Office, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Copies of the petitions can also be obtained at any time of the day and week from the Commission's home page at [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov), or from the Commission's FlashFAX service. To obtain copies of the petitions from FlashFAX, dial (202) 501-3413 and follow the FlashFAX service instructions. Request document # 239 to receive the petition.

All statements in support of or in opposition to the petitions should be addressed to Rosemary C. Smith, Senior Attorney, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written comments should be sent to the Commission's postal service address: Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463. Faxed comments should be sent to (202) 219-3923. Commenters submitting faxed comments should also submit a printed copy to the Commission's postal service address to ensure legibility.

Comments may also be sent by electronic mail to [debates@fec.gov](mailto:debates@fec.gov). Commenters sending comments by electronic mail should include their full name, electronic mail address and postal service address within the text of their comments. All comments, regardless of form, must be submitted by July 12, 1999.

Consideration of the merits of the petition will be deferred until the close of the comment period. If the Commission decides that the petition has merit, it may begin a rulemaking proceeding. Any subsequent action taken by the Commission will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: June 4, 1999.

**Scott E. Thomas,**

*Chairman, Federal Election Commission.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

#### 12 CFR Part 24

[Docket No. 99-09]

RIN 1557-AB69

#### Community Development Corporations, Community Development Projects, and Other Public Welfare Investments

**AGENCY:** Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is proposing to amend part 24, the regulation governing national bank investments that are designed primarily to promote the public welfare. This proposal simplifies the prior notice and self-certification requirements that apply to national banks' public welfare investments; expands the types of investments that a national bank may self-certify by removing geographic restrictions; and permits eligible national banks with assets of less than \$250 million to self-certify any public welfare investment. The OCC is also seeking comment on whether to modify the methods of demonstrating community support or participation currently prescribed by part 24, and whether the OCC could simplify or streamline the procedures and standards contained in part 24. The proposal encourages national banks to make public welfare investments by making it easier to comply with the applicable procedures.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before August 9, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Please direct comments to: Docket No. 99-09, Communications Division, Third Floor, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20219. Comments are available for inspection and photocopying at that address. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to FAX number (202) 874-5274, or by electronic mail to [REGS.COMMENTS@OCC.TREAS.GOV](mailto:REGS.COMMENTS@OCC.TREAS.GOV).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Lewis, Community Development Investments Manager, Community Development Division, (202) 874-4930; Michael S. Bylsma, Director, Community and Consumer Law Division, (202) 874-5750; or Heidi M. Thomas, Senior Attorney, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, (202) 874-5090.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The OCC is proposing to amend 12 CFR part 24, which contains the rules relating to national banks' investments in community development corporations (CDCs), community development (CD) projects, and other public welfare investments. Part 24 implements 12 U.S.C. 24(Eleventh), which authorizes national banks to make investments designed primarily to promote the public welfare, including the welfare of low- and moderate-income communities and families, subject to certain percentage of capital limitations. (The investments authorized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 24(Eleventh) are collectively referred to in this proposal as "public welfare investments"). The purpose of this proposal is to make burden-reducing changes that will make it easier for national banks to use the public welfare investment authority that the statute and regulation provide.

The OCC originally adopted part 24 in 1993 and substantially revised the regulation, pursuant to its Regulation Review Program, in 1996. See 58 FR 68464 (Dec. 27, 1993) (final regulation); 61 FR 49654 (Sept. 23, 1996) (1996 amendments). The 1996 amendments encouraged national banks to make public welfare investments by eliminating unnecessarily burdensome provisions and streamlining the part 24 procedures. Among other things, the 1996 amendments: modified the test for determining whether an investment primarily promotes the public welfare; streamlined the investment self-certification and prior approval