To correct or amend a TSP record

If the type of record is:	If you are a participant who is a current Federal employee write to:	If you are a participant who has separated from Federal employment write to:
Personnel or personal records (e.g., age, address, Social Security number, date of birth).	Write to your employing agency	Write to TSP record keeper.
The agency's and the participant's contributions, and adjustments to contributions.	Write to your employing agency	Write to your former employing agency.
Earnings, investment allocation, interfund transfers, loans, loan repayments, and withdrawals.	Write to TSP record keeper	Write to TSP record keeper.

c. In paragraph (a)(3), by removing the following language from the first sentence, ''the procedures set forth for agencies and the Board (including the TSP Service Office which is the Board's recordkeeper) in'; and

d. In paragraph (a)(5), by revising the last two sentences to read as follows:

(a) * * *

(5) * * * The employing agency also has custody of the election form (which is maintained in the Official Personnel Folder). Requests for amendment or correction of records described in this paragraph should be made to the employing agency.

* * * * *

§ 1630.14 [Amended]

9. Section 1630.14 is amended in paragraph (c) by adding the words ''or the record keeper'' after the word ''Board'' in the first sentence.

§ 1630.16 [Amended]

10. Section 1630.16 is amended in paragraph (d)(1) by adding the words ''to be'' after the word ''amount'.

§ 1630.2, 1630.4, 1630.6, 1630.11, 1630.12 and 1630.16 [Amended]

11. The words ''Thrift Savings Plan Service Office'', ''TSP Service Office'' and ''Head, TSP Service Office'' are revised to read ''record keeper'' in the following sections:

1630.2(n);
1630.4(a)(3) in all three sentences;
1630.6(a) in sentence two;
1630.11(a)(2);
1630.12(a) in sentences one and two; and 1630.16(c).

§ 1630.6 and 1630.10 [Amended]

12. The words ''Head, TSP Service Office, or designee'' are revised to read ''record keeper designee'' in the following sections:

01630.6(a) in sentence one;
1630.10(a); and
1630.10(a)(1).

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 99–30923 Filed 12–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6760–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 78

[Docket No. 99–051–2]

Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Kansas

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the brucellosis regulations concerning the interstate movement of cattle by changing the classification of Kansas from Class A to Class Free. We have determined that Kansas meets the standards for Class Free status. The interim rule relieved certain restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle from Kansas.

DATES: The interim rule became effective on July 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Valerie Ragan, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–7708.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In an interim rule effective July 1, 1999, and published in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1999 (64 FR 36775–36777, Docket No. 99–051–1), we amended the brucellosis regulations in 9 CFR part 78 by removing Kansas from the list of Class A States or areas in § 78.41(b) and adding it to the list of Class Free States or areas in § 78.41(a).

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before September 7, 1999. We did not receive any comments. Therefore, for the reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Orders 12372 and 12988, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived the review process required by Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 78

Animal diseases, Bison, Cattle, Hogs, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

PART 78—BRUCELLOSIS

Accordingly, we are adopting as a final rule, without change, the interim rule that amended 9 CFR part 78 and that was published at 64 FR 36775–36777 on July 8, 1999.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 111–114a–1, 114g, 115, 117, 120, 121, 123–126, 134b, and 134f; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(d).

Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of November 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99–31372 Filed 12–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. 98–119–2]

Change in Disease Status of Liechtenstein Because of BSE

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that added Liechtenstein to the list of regions where bovine spongiform encephalopathy exists. We took this action because bovine spongiform

encephalopathy was detected in two bovine animals in Liechtenstein. The effect of the interim rule was to prohibit or restrict the importation of ruminants that have been in Liechtenstein and meat, meat products, and certain other products of ruminants that have been in Liechtenstein. The interim rule was necessary to reduce the risk that bovine spongiform encephalopathy could be introduced into the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The interim rule became effective on December 18, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Gary Colgrove, Chief Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In an interim rule effective December 18, 1998, and published in the **Federal Register** on December 24, 1998 (63 FR 71209–71210, Docket No. 98–119–1), we amended the regulations in 9 CFR part 94 by adding Liechtenstein to the list in § 94.18(a)(1) of regions where bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) exists. We took this action because BSE was detected in two bovine animals born in Liechtenstein.

We solicited comments concerning the interim rule for 60 days ending February 22, 1999. We received one comment by that date. The comment was from an individual who did not oppose adding Liechtenstein to the list of regions where BSE exists but expressed the opinion that, at this time, animals and animal products derived from animals should be banned from importation into the United States until techniques are developed that will inactivate transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) agents, including BSE. The commenter also stated that the exporting country's regulations should be equal to or stronger than ours, and the country's animal population should be TSE-free. In addition, the commenter raised issues regarding human health and the labeling of certain animal products. These comments are outside the scope of this rulemaking.

We currently prohibit or restrict the importation of ruminants, ruminant meat and meat products, and certain other ruminant products from regions where BSE is known to exist and from regions where we believe BSE may exist. This rulemaking added Liechtenstein to the list of those regions. If we determine that other changes to our regulations are necessary to prevent the introduction of BSE into the United States, we will publish another document in the **Federal Register** for public comment.

Therefore, for the reasons given in the interim rule and in this document, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Orders 12866 and 12988 and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived the review process required by Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule affirms an interim rule that amended the regulations by adding Liechtenstein to the list of regions where BSE exists. We took this action because BSE was detected in two bovine animals in Liechtenstein. The effect of the interim rule was to prohibit or restrict the importation of ruminants that have been in Liechtenstein and meat, meat products, and certain other products of ruminants that have been in Liechtenstein. The interim rule was necessary to reduce the risk that BSE could be introduced into the United States.

The following analysis addresses the economic effect of this rule on small entities, as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

BSE is a slowly progressing, fatal, degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system of cattle. The disease was first diagnosed in 1986 in Great Britain, where it is sometimes called ''mad cow disease.'' Infected animals may display changes in temperament, abnormal posture, incoordination and difficulty in rising, decreased milk production, and loss of body condition despite continued appetite. The causative agent of BSE is not completely characterized, and there is no treatment for the disease. At this time, the disease is not known to exist in the United States. There is no vaccine to prevent BSE nor is there a test to detect the disease in live animals. Given these factors, the import restrictions imposed by the interim rule are the most effective means available for ensuring that BSE does not enter the United States from Liechtenstein.

Preventing the introduction of BSE into the United States is critical. BSE has the potential to cause severe economic hardship for the U.S. livestock industry. Great Britain's experience with the disease provides an insight into how damaging BSE can be to livestock. Between November 1986 (when BSE was first diagnosed in Great Britain) and May 1996, an estimated 160,540 head of cattle in approximately 33,455 herds were diagnosed with BSE in Great Britain. The epidemic peaked there in January 1993, with almost 1,000 new cases per week. All of the animals in Great Britain showing signs of BSE, most of which were dairy cows between 3 and 5 years of age, were destroyed.

If BSE were introduced into the United States, livestock losses would likely be much greater than in Great Britain because the United States raises more cattle. However, assuming the same number of cattle losses in the United States as in Great Britain (160,540), the introduction of BSE into the United States would cost U.S. livestock producers $189 million, based on the October 1998 price of $1,180 per head for dairy cows. The $189 million figure does not include higher production costs that would likely be incurred by U.S. producers due to the presence of the disease.

U.S. export and consumer markets would also be affected. The United States currently restricts the importation of live ruminants and ruminant products from all regions where BSE is known to exist and from regions that present an undue risk of introducing BSE into the United States due to import requirements that are less restrictive than those that would be acceptable for import into the United States and/or because of inadequate surveillance. Presumably, if BSE were introduced into the United States, other regions would adopt similar restrictions on the exportation of live ruminants and ruminant products from the United States. Such restrictions by other regions would be devastating economically. In 1997, for example, the dollar value of U.S. exports of both ruminants (bovine, sheep, and goats) and ruminant products (bovine, sheep, lamb, and goat meat and bovine, sheep, and goat offal) was more than $3.1 billion. Those export sales could be lost in their entirety. Consumers could incur higher costs due to higher prices for ruminant products and increased prices for competitive products, such as poultry.

We expect that restricting the importation of live ruminants and ruminant products from Liechtenstein will have little or no effect on U.S. consumers. No ruminants, ruminant meat, or ruminant offal were imported into the United States from Liechtenstein in the last 5 years. Total imports into the United States of ruminant meat in 1997 had a value of more than $1.6 billion. Because Liechtenstein is not a significant supply source of ruminants and ruminant products for the U.S. market,

restrictions on imports from Liechtenstein should not have a significant effect on consumer prices in the United States.

Placing Liechtenstein on the list of regions where BSE is known to exist also restricts the importation of bones, products made from bone meal, blood meal, meat meal, offal, fat, glands, and serum from ruminants from this region. Little economic effect should be associated with any of these restrictions. Further, the importation into the United States of any pet or animal feed from Liechtenstein that may contain ruminant products is restricted as a result of this action. The United States has imported dog and cat food from Liechtenstein since 1995. In 1997, total imports of dog and cat food into the United States had a value of more than $149 million; of this, only $52,191 worth was imported from Liechtenstein. Therefore, we expect that there will be very little or no effect on U.S. consumers as a result of this restriction.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 94

Animal diseases, Imports, Livestock, Meat and meat products, Milk, Poultry and poultry products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 94—RINDERPEST, FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, FOWL PEST (FOWL PLAGUE), EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE, AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, HOG CHOLERA, AND BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY: PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED IMPORTATIONS

Accordingly, we are adopting as a final rule, without change, the interim rule that amended 9 CFR part 94 and that was published at 63 FR 71209–71210 on December 24, 1998.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 147a, 150ee, 161, 162, and 450; 19 U.S.C. 1306; 21 U.S.C. 111, 114a, 134a, 134b, 134c, 134f, 136, and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 42 U.S.C. 4331 and 4332; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(d).

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of November 1999.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99–31344 Filed 12–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 130

[Docket No. 98–052–2]

Veterinary Services User Fees; Biosecurity Level Three Laboratory Inspection Fee

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are amending existing user fees for the inspection for approval of biosecurity level three laboratories. Existing user fees require biosecurity level three laboratories to pay user fees for inspection based on hourly rates. We are replacing the hourly rates for this specific service with a flat rate user fee that would cover all the costs of inspection related to approving a laboratory for handling one defined set of organisms or vectors. We are taking this action in order to ensure that the user fees cover our costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 3, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information concerning program operations for Veterinary Services, contact Ms. Louise Lothery, Administrative Officer, Management Support Staff, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 44, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–7517.

For information concerning rate development of the proposed user fee, contact Ms. Donna Ford, Section Head, Financial Systems and Services Branch, Budget and Accounting Service Enhancement Unit, MRPBS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 54, Riverdale, MD 20737–1232; (301) 734–8351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

User fees to reimburse the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for the costs of providing veterinary diagnostic services and import- and export-related services for live animals and birds and animal products are contained in 9 CFR part 130. Section 130.8 lists miscellaneous flat rate user fees. Section 130.9 lists the hourly rate user fees charged for APHIS' import or entry services, including inspection of laboratories within the United States.

On July 14, 1999, we published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 37903–37905, Docket No. 98–052–1) a proposal to amend the existing user fees for the inspection for approval of biosecurity level three laboratories. Existing user fees require biosecurity level three laboratories to pay user fees for inspection based on hourly rates. We proposed to replace the hourly rates for this specific service with a flat rate user fee that would cover all the costs of inspection related to approving a laboratory for handling one defined set of organisms or vectors.

We solicited comments concerning our proposal for 60 days ending September 13, 1999. We did not receive any comments. Therefore, for the reasons given in the proposed rule, we are adopting the proposed rule as a final rule, without change.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. The 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.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 604, we have performed a final regulatory flexibility analysis, which is set out below, regarding the economic effects of this rule on small entities.

User fees to reimburse APHIS for the costs of providing veterinary diagnostic services and import- and export-related services for live animals and birds and animal products are contained in 9 CFR part 130. Prior to the effective date of this rule, APHIS charged user fees for the inspection of biosecurity level three laboratories under the hourly rate user fees contained in § 130.9.

APHIS inspects several laboratories in the United States that conduct biosecurity level three research on high-risk organisms and vectors. Under the hourly rate user fees, laboratories pay an average of $462 for inspections required to be approved to handle a defined set of organisms or vectors. The average actual cost of providing this service, including the cost of air travel and lodging necessary to inspect certain laboratories, is $977 per laboratory. APHIS has not been able to recover all costs of inspection associated with approving these laboratories under the hourly rate user fee structure because the regulations only provide for 6 hours of ground travel.

Therefore, we are amending the regulations in § 130.8 by establishing a flat rate user fee of $977 for this service, which would cover the average cost of inspection related to approving a laboratory to handle one defined set of organisms or vectors. The flat rate user fee will enable all laboratories to know in advance what costs they will incur.

We arrived at the flat rate user fee by using the average of the number of hours required for an APHIS inspector