

(d) *Burned or mutilated coupons.* FNS may redeem burned or mutilated coupons only to the extent that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the United States Treasury Department can determine the value of the coupons. The firm presenting burned or mutilated coupons for redemption shall submit the coupons to the local FNS field office with a properly filled-out redemption certificate. In the section of the redemption certificate for entering the amount of coupons to be redeemed, an estimate of the value of the burned or mutilated coupons submitted for redemption shall be entered if the exact value of the coupons is unknown. The phrase "Deputy Administrator for Fiscal Management, FNS, USDA," should be entered in the section of the redemption certificate for entering the name and address of the insured financial institution or wholesaler.

(e) *Old series coupons.* FNS may redeem the old series food coupons issued in 50-cent, 2-dollar, and 5-dollar denominations when they are presented for redemption. Firms presenting the coupons for redemption shall submit the coupons to the local FNS field office with a properly completed redemption certificate and a written statement, signed by a representative of the firm, detailing the circumstances of the acceptance of the coupons.

(f) *Denials of claims brought by authorized firms against FNS.* If a claim brought by a firm against FNS under this section is denied in whole or in part, notification of this action shall be sent to the firm by certified mail or personal service. If the firm is aggrieved by this action, it may seek administrative review as provided in part 279.

(g) *Lost or stolen coupons.* FNS may not be held liable for claims from retail food stores, meal services, or wholesale food concerns for lost or stolen coupons.

[Amdt. 136, 43 FR 43274, Sept. 22, 1978, as amended by Amdt. 258, 49 FR 28393, July 12, 1984; Amdt. 257, 49 FR 32538, Aug. 15, 1984; Amdt. 262, 49 FR 50598, Dec. 31, 1984; 68 FR 41052, July 10, 2003]

§ 278.8 [Reserved]

§ 278.9 Implementation of amendments relating to the participation of retail food stores, wholesale food concerns and insured financial institutions.

(a) *Amendment 224.* Retail food stores shall have signs posted as required by this amendment no later than 30 days after distribution of the signs by FNS.

(b) *Amendment 257.* With the exception of the provisions in §278.5 requiring redeeming financial institutions to verify that coupons are supported by redemption certificates, the revisions to part 278 shall be effective September 14, 1984. Redeeming financial institutions shall begin verifying coupon deposits as required by §278.5 in accordance with the schedule determined by the Federal Reserve Board. Insured financial institutions shall adhere to preexisting requirements for handling redemption certificates (at 7 CFR 278.5(a)) until their Federal Reserve District implements the procedures contained in this final rule. FNS shall not be liable for any losses of coupons in transit to Federal Reserve Banks or as a result of a burglary or robbery of an insured financial institution which occur after September 14, 1984.

(c) *Amendment 267.* The federally insured credit unions authorized to redeem food stamps under this amendment may begin accepting food stamps for redemption not later than March 27, 1986.

(d) The program changes of *Amendment 272* at §278.5(a) (1) and (3) are effective upon publication of the amendment. Financial institutions must implement the provisions no later than April 21, 1986.

(e) *Amendment No. 286.* The provisions for part 278 of *Amendment No. 286* were effective March 11, 1987 for purposes of submitting applications for authorization to accept food stamps. For all other purposes, the effective date was April 1, 1987.

(f) *Amendment No. 280.* The provisions for part 271 and §§278.1(r) and 278.6(f) of No. 280 are effective retroactively to April 1, 1987. The provision for §278.1(o) is effective May 22, 1987.