

# Rules and Regulations

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

### Rural Utilities Service

### Farm Service Agency

### 7 CFR Part 1924

RIN 0575-ZA00

### Final Affordability Determination— Energy Efficiency Standards; Correction

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of final determination; correction.

**SUMMARY:** On May 6, 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), along with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), published a joint notice of final determination regarding adoption of the 2009 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for single family homes and the 2007 edition of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 for multifamily buildings. A clerical error in production resulted in the wrong CFR attribution for USDA in the document's heading. This correction carries the proper CFR citation in its heading.

**DATES:** This correction is effective May 28, 2015, and applicable beginning May 6, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Meghan Walsh, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6900-S, Washington, DC 20250; telephone number 202-205-9590 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 6, 2015, at 80 FR 25901, USDA and HUD published a joint notice of final determination. A clerical error in production caused the document to publish with USDA's CFR citation in the heading as "7 CFR Chapter 0," and no agencies were assigned to that chapter. As represented in the heading of this correction, the correct USDA agencies and CFR citation are Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency and 7 CFR part 1924.

Dated: May 22, 2015.

**Lisa Mensah,**

*Under Secretary, Rural Development.*

Dated: May 22, 2015.

**Alexis M. Taylor,**

*Acting Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.*

[FR Doc. 2015-12931 Filed 5-27-15; 8:45 am]

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## FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

### 12 CFR Part 611

RIN 3052-AC85

### Organization; Institution Stockholder Voting Procedures

**AGENCY:** Farm Credit Administration.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Farm Credit Administration (FCA, we, Agency or our) amends FCA's regulations to clarify and enhance Farm Credit System (Farm Credit or System) bank and association stockholder voting procedures for tabulating votes, the use of tellers committees, and other items as identified.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* The regulation will be effective 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** during which either one or both Houses of Congress are in session. We will publish a notice of the effective date in the **Federal Register**.

*Compliance Date:* All provisions of this regulation require compliance on or before January 1, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas R. Risdal, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Regulatory Policy, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA, (703) 883-

4257, TTY (703) 883-4056; or Nancy Tunis, Senior Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4061, TTY (703) 883-4056.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Objectives

The primary objective of this rule is to clarify § 611.340 of our regulations regarding confidentiality and security in stockholder voting procedures and facilitate their safe and sound implementation by System institutions. Specifically, this final rule clarifies that:

- A System bank or association may use a tellers committee to tabulate ballots and still maintain confidentiality and security of the voting process; and
- A small number of administrative employees of a bank or association may assist a tellers committee in verifying a stockholder's eligibility to vote.

#### II. Background

The Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Act),<sup>1</sup> authorizes the FCA to issue regulations implementing the Act's provisions.<sup>2</sup> Our regulations are intended to ensure the safe and sound operation of System institutions. In order to fulfill our responsibility to maintain the safety and soundness of System institutions and safeguard stockholders' right to a secret ballot, the FCA's regulations provide that banks and associations must ensure the confidentiality and security of stockholder voting, while maintaining cooperative principles.<sup>3</sup>

Section 611.340 of the FCA's regulations requires that the board of directors of each System bank and association adopt policies and procedures to ensure the confidentiality and security of all records and materials related to a stockholder vote including, but not limited to, ballots, proxy ballots, and other related materials. Also, this section requires that System bank and association policies and procedures ensure that ballots and proxy ballots are

<sup>1</sup> Public Law 92-181, 85 Stat. 583 (1971), 12 U.S.C. 2001 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> Section 5.17(a)(9) of the Act authorizes the FCA to prescribe rules and regulations necessary or appropriate for carrying out the Act.

<sup>3</sup> Section 4.20 of the Act requires that "[i]n any election or merger vote, or other proceeding subject to a vote of the stockholders . . . the institution (1) may not use signed ballots; and (2) shall implement measures to safeguard the voting process for the protection of the right of stockholders . . . to a secret ballot."