In these cases, any unsatisfied verification requirement would be postponed until the end of the second month. 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(E) shall include the requirements currently contained at 7 CFR 274.2(b)(4), which concern households not entitled to combined allotments.

The regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(B) currently require that households which apply after the fifteenth of the month and are assigned certification periods of longer than one month, must have all postponed verification completed before it can be issued its second month's benefits. Migrant households which apply after the fifteenth of the month and are assigned certification periods of longer than one month must provide all postponed verification from within-State sources before the second month's benefits can be issued, and must provide all postponed verification from out-of-State sources before the third month's benefits are issued. Because of the change in policy regarding combined allotments, eligible households that are entitled to expedited service and apply after the 15th of the month must now receive a combined allotment which includes their first and second month's benefits. Since these households will have already received their second month's benefits, postponed verification must now be completed prior to the third month of benefits. As noted above, this is current policy for migrants in regard to completing out-of-State verification, and the Department is proposing to broaden the requirement to make it mandatory for all households which apply after the fifteenth of the month and are assigned certification periods of longer than one month. Therefore, the Department is proposing to amend 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(B) accordingly. The Department is also proposing to make a conforming amendment to 7 CFR 273.10(a)(1)(iv), which contains a similar verification requirement to that currently contained in 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(B).

Current regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(B) require that when households which apply for benefits after the 15th of the month provide the required postponed verification, the State agency shall issue the second month's benefits within five working days from receipt of the verification or the first day of the second calendar month, whichever is later. The Department is proposing to remove this requirement.

Current regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(C) require that households which are eligible for

expedited service and that apply after the fifteenth of the month must be issued their second month's benefits on the first working day of the second calendar month, not the day benefits would normally be issued in a State using staggered issuance. Because of the potentially lengthy period of time between issuance of the combined allotment for the month of expedited service and the first full month of participation and issuance of a second allotment for the third month of participation if benefits are issued to the household in a State using staggered issuance, the Department has decided to retain the issuance requirement of 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(C) for the third month of benefits. Therefore, the Department is proposing to add a new paragraph 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(F) which will require that in States with staggered issuance, households be issued their third allotment by the first working day of the third calendar month. For allotments in subsequent months, State agencies will employ their normal issuance mechanisms.

Current regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(i)(B) require that households entitled to expedited service furnish a social security number (SSN) for each household member before the first full month of participation. Households that are unable to provide the required SSNs or who do not have one prior to the first full month of participation can only participate if they satisfy the good cause requirements with respect to SSNs specified in 7 CFR 273.6(d).

Because of the change in combined allotment policy, eligible households that apply after the fifteenth of the month and are entitled to expedited service can receive their second month's benefits without having to furnish an SSN. The Department is proposing to revise the regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(i)(B) to require that households entitled to expedited service that apply after the fifteenth of the month furnish an SSN for each person prior to the third month of participation.

Current regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii) provide that households that are certified for expedited service and have postponed verification requirements may be certified for either the month of application or for longer periods, at the State agency's option. 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) currently addresses verification requirements for households that are certified only for the month of application, and 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(B) currently addresses verification requirements for households that are certified for longer than the month of application. Neither section of the regulations addresses

verification requirements for households that apply before the 15th of the month. The Department is proposing to eliminate this deficiency by amending 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) to address verification requirements for households that apply on or before the 15th of the month and to amend 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(B) to address verification requirements for households that apply after the 15th of the month.

Current regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii) give State agencies the option of requesting any household eligible for expedited service which applies after the 15th of the month to submit a second application (at the time of initial certification) if the household's verification requirements have been postponed. Under current policy, that second application would be denied for the first month and acted on for the second month. However, now that expedited service households will be receiving a combined allotment of their first and second month's benefits, under our proposal, the second application would be denied for both the first and second months and acted on for the third month. The Department believes that current regulations do not allow for this procedure and is, therefore, proposing to amend the regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(a)(2)(i) to require that if a household files an application for recertification in any month in which it is receiving food stamp benefits, the State agency shall act on that application for eligibility and benefit purposes starting with the first month after the current certification period expires.

## Residency—7 CFR 273.3

Current rules at 7 CFR 273.3 require food stamp households to live in the project area in which they apply unless the State agency has made arrangements for particular households to apply in nearby specified project areas. A proposed rule on Consistency for Food Stamp Program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Adult Assistance Programs (the Consistency rule), published September 29, 1987, at 52 FR 36549, would have permitted State agencies to allow Statewide residency. The change was proposed to increase consistency with requirements of the AFDC and the Adult Assistance programs under Titles I, X, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act, which require that applicants reside in the State, but have no project area requirement. Under that proposed rule, State agencies would still have been able to designate limited project areas and restrict where a given household could apply. That proposed rule was not