#### **General Information**

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided End-Use Certificates for Wheat (ASCS-750) for persons required to submit these certificates for the importation of Canadian-produced wheat into the United States.
- Regulations governing the End-Use Certificate Program can be found at 7 CFR Part 782.
- Wheat covered by an End-Use Certificate for Wheat must be stored identity preserved until such time as the wheat is (1) Delivered to an end user, or (2) loaded onto a conveyance for delivery to an end user for foreign country.
- Copies of ASCS-751, Wheat Consumption and Resale Report can be obtained from the Kansas City Commodity Office, Warehouse License and Contract Division, P.O. Box 419205, Kansas City, MO 64141-6205.
- ASCS-751, Wheat Consumption and Resale Report must be filed by each end user, subsequent buyer, exporter, and importer.
- All filers must complete Section A, General Information.
- End users and exporters must complete Section B, Certification by End Users and Exporters.
- Subsequent buyers and importers must complete Section C, Certification by Subsequent Buyers and Importers.
- End users and exporters file form ASCS-751 to report quarterly consumption and exports. Reports are due from end users and exporters within 15 workdays following March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.
- Subsequent buyers and importers must file form ASCS-751 for each individual sale. Reports are due from subsequent buyers and importers within 10 workdays following the date of the sale.

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### **Rural Utilities Service**

### 7 CFR Part 1755

# Standard for Splicing Copper and Fiber Optic Cables

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA. ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby amends its regulations on telecommunications standards and specifications for materials, equipment and construction. The revised standard will update the splicing methods and

materials used for splicing copper cables brought about through technological advancements over the past fifteen years and incorporate a section into the standard dealing with the splicing methods and materials used to splice fiber optic cables.

DATES: Effective date: February 27, 1995.

Incorporation by reference: Incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this final rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of February 27, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garnett G. Adams, Chief, Outside Plant Branch, Telecommunications Standards Division, Rural Utilities Service, room 2844, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250– 1500, telephone (202) 720–0667.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

## **Executive Order 12866**

This final 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.

#### **Executive Order 12778**

This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. If adopted, this final rule will not:

- Preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies;
  - (2) Have any retroactive effect; and
- (3) Require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit challenging the provisions of this rule.

#### **Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification**

The Administrator of RUS has determined that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). This final rule involves standards and specifications, which may increase the direct short term costs to RUS borrowers. However, the long-term direct economic costs are reduced through greater durability and lower maintenance cost over time.

## Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

This final rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96–511).

### National Environmental Policy Act Certification

The Administrator of RUS has determined that this final rule will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, this action does not require an environmental impact statement or assessment.

## **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance**

The program described by this final rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance programs under No. 10.851, Rural Telephone Loans and Loan Guarantees, and No. 10.582, Rural Telephone Bank Loans. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

#### **Executive Order 12372**

This final rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation that requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. A Notice of Final Rule titled Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372 (50 FR 47034) exempts RUS and RTB loans and loan guarantees, and RTB bank loans, to governmental and nongovernmental entities from coverage under this Order.

## Background

RUS issues publications titled "Bulletin" which serve to guide borrowers regarding already codified policy, procedures, and requirements needed to manage loans, loan guarantee programs, and the security instruments which provide for and secure RUS financing. RUS issues standards and specifications for the construction of telephone facilities financed with RUS loan funds. RUS is rescinding Bulletin 345-6, RUS Standard for Splicing Plastic-Insulated Cables, PC-2, and codifying the revised standard at 7 CFR 1755.200, RUS Standard for Splicing Copper and Fiber Optic Cables.

RUS Bulletin 345–6 is used by borrowers and contractors as an outside plant construction standard for splicing copper cables installed in aerial and buried splice closures, ready-access enclosures, and buried plant housings. Because of technological advancements made in copper cable splicing methods and materials over the past fifteen years, the current splicing methods and materials relating to copper cables specified in the current standard have become outdated. To allow borrowers and contractors to take advantage of these improved methods and materials which will reduce installation costs, the current standard will be revised to update the copper cable splicing methods and materials to reflect these improved methods and materials.