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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-A106

Prevailing Rate Systems; Removal of  
Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland  
Counties, NY, and Monmouth County,  
NJ, from the New York, NY,  
Appropriated Fund Survey Area

AGENCY: Office of Personnel  
Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a final rule to remove Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the survey area of the New York, NY, appropriated fund Federal Wage System wage area. The four counties will remain in the area of application of the New York, NY, wage area.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 23, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Allen at (202) 606-2848, or send an email message to maallen@opm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 3, 1997, OPM published a proposed rule to remove Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the survey area of the New York, NY, appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area (62 FR 59300). The proposed rule provided a 30-day period for public comment, during which OPM received one comment. The comment was related to the definition of the Newburgh, NY, wage area—a matter previously decided by OPM following lengthy discussions at meetings of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the statutory national-level labor-management committee responsible for advising OPM on matters concerning the pay of

FWS employees. The proposed rule is therefore being adopted as a final rule.

When the FWS was established in 1972, the New York, NY, survey area was composed of Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, NY; and Essex, Hudson, Morris, and Union Counties, NJ. In 1975, FPRAC agreed by consensus to recommend that the New York, NY, survey area be expanded to include Putnam County, NY; and Bergen, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, and Somerset Counties, NJ. This change was made so as to include 100 percent of the New York wage area's FWS employment in the New York, NY, survey area and to provide for a larger number of surveyable private industrial establishments.

As the largest FWS survey—with a sample of more than 900 industrial establishments—the New York, NY, FWS wage survey has become increasingly difficult to conduct because its logistical demands create unusual burdens on local agency activities already strained by downsizing and budget constraints. To reduce the logistical burdens of the New York, NY, FWS wage survey, OPM is removing Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the New York, NY, survey area. Of the 19 counties in the New York, NY, survey area, OPM is removing these four counties from the survey area because their removal appears to offer the best means of reducing the logistical burdens of surveys in the New York, NY, wage area while least affecting the determination of prevailing rates for FWS employees in that wage area.

The removal of these four counties from the New York, NY, FWS survey area leaves about 90 percent of the wage area's FWS employment in the New York, NY, survey area, and reduces the number of surveyable private industrial establishments in the New York, NY, survey universe by only about 4 percent. OPM also considered the possible removal of other counties from the New York survey area, but none appeared to offer as convincing a rationale for removal as do Putnam, Richmond, Rockland, or Monmouth Counties. FPRAC reviewed and concurred by consensus with this change.

Because of a typographical error in appendix C to subpart B of 5 CFR part

532, the wage area listing for the New York, NY, wage area follows immediately after the wage area listing for the Newburgh, NY, wage area without showing the title of the New York, NY, wage area. This final rule also corrects that inadvertent omission.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,  
Director.

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE  
SYSTEMS

1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532  
[Amended]

2. Appendix C to subpart B is amended by revising the wage area listings for the Newburgh, New York, and New York, New York, wage areas to read as follows:

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532—  
Appropriated Fund Wage and Survey  
Areas

\* \* \* \* \*

New York

\* \* \* \* \*

Newburgh

Survey Area

New York:  
Dutchess  
Orange  
Ulster

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

New York:  
Delaware  
Sullivan

**New York***Survey Area***New York:**

Bronx  
Kings  
Nassau  
New York  
Queens  
Suffolk  
Westchester

**New Jersey:**

Bergen  
Essex  
Hudson  
Middlesex  
Morris  
Passaic  
Somerset  
Union

*Area of Application. Survey Area Plus***New York:**

Putnam  
Richmond  
Rockland

**New Jersey:**

Monmouth  
Sussex

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 97-33581 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
MANAGEMENT****5 CFR Part 532**

RIN 3206-A111

**Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment  
of Kansas City, MO, Special Wage  
Schedule for Printing Positions**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel  
Management.

**ACTION:** Interim rule with request for  
comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Personnel  
Management (OPM) is issuing an  
interim rule to abolish the Federal Wage  
System (FWS) special wage schedule for  
printing positions in the Kansas City,  
Missouri, wage area. Printing and  
lithographic employees in Kansas City  
will now be paid rates from the regular  
Kansas City wage schedule.

**DATES:** This interim rule becomes  
effective on January 4, 1998. Comments  
must be received by January 23, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send or deliver comments  
to Donald J. Winstead, Assistant  
Director for Compensation  
Administration, Workforce  
Compensation and Performance Service,  
Office of Personnel Management, Room  
7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington,  
DC 20415, or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Mark Allen at (202) 606-2848, or send  
an email message to maallen@opm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
Department of Defense recommended to  
OPM that the Kansas City, MO, special  
wage schedule for printing positions be  
abolished and that the regular Kansas  
City wage schedule apply to printing  
employees in the Kansas City wage area.  
This recommendation was based on the  
fact that the number of employees paid  
from the special schedule has declined  
in recent years from a total of about 70  
employees in 1985 to a current total of  
about 30 employees. With the reduced  
number of employees, it has become  
increasingly difficult to comply with the  
requirement that workers paid from the  
special printing schedule participate in  
the local wage survey process. A full-  
scale special wage survey in the Kansas  
City wage area would require the  
substantial work effort of contacting  
about 70 printing establishments spread  
over 8 counties and would require the  
participation of about 10 percent of the  
employees who are paid from the  
special printing schedule.

Upon abolishment of the Kansas City  
special printing schedule, the printing  
and lithographic employees will be  
converted to the regular schedule for the  
Kansas City wage area on a grade-for-  
grade basis. An employee's new rate of  
pay will be set at the rate for the step  
of the applicable grade of the regular  
schedule that equals the employee's  
existing scheduled rate of pay. When  
the existing rate falls between two steps,  
an employee's new rate will be set at the  
rate for the higher of those two steps.  
Pay retention provisions will apply for  
the few employees not receiving  
increases upon conversion. This  
conversion does not constitute an  
equivalent increase for within-grade  
increase purposes.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory  
Committee, the statutory national-level  
labor-management committee  
responsible for advising OPM on  
matters concerning the pay of FWS  
employees, has reviewed and concurred  
by consensus with this change.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B), I  
find that good cause exists for waiving  
the general notice of proposed  
rulemaking. Also, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.  
553(d)(3), I find that good cause exists  
for making this rule effective in less  
than 30 days. The notice is being  
waived and the regulation is being made  
effective in less than 30 days because a  
new regular wage schedule will go into  
effect in the Kansas City wage area on  
January 4, 1998, and employees  
currently paid from the special printing  
schedule for the wage area would have  
received a wage adjustment on that date  
had the Department of Defense been

able to conduct a special wage survey in  
the wage area in 1997.

**Regulatory Flexibility Act**

I certify that these regulations will not  
have a significant economic impact on  
a substantial number of small entities  
because they affect only Federal  
agencies and employees.

**List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532**

Administrative practice and  
procedure, Freedom of information,  
Government employees, Reporting and  
recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Janice R. Lachance,**

*Director.*

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR  
part 532 as follows:

**PART 532—PREVAILING RATE  
SYSTEMS**

1. The authority citation for part 532  
continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707  
also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

**§ 532.279 [Amended]**

2. In § 532.279, paragraph (j)(3) is  
removed, and paragraph (j)(4) is  
redesignated as paragraph (j)(3).

[FR Doc. 97-33583 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Housing Service****Rural Business-Cooperative Service****Rural Utilities Service****Farm Service Agency****7 CFR Part 2003****Functional Organization of the Rural  
Development Mission Area**

**AGENCIES:** Rural Housing Service; Rural  
Business-Cooperative Service; Rural  
Utilities Service; Farm Service Agency;  
USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The issuing agencies amend  
their regulations to reflect the  
reorganization of the Department of  
Agriculture. The intended effect of this  
action is to provide efficient utilization  
of Department personnel resources. This  
publication provides the function  
statements for organizational units  
within the Rural Development mission  
area, the Rural Housing Service, Rural  
Business-Cooperative Service, and the  
Rural Utilities Service.