16. The introductory paragraph of Rule 24 is amended by adding "or § 1036.320(c), as applicable," after "§ 1035.11(c)" wherever it appears.

[FR Doc. 88-22893 Filed 9-30-88; 3:16 pm]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### 13 CFR Part 105

### Amendment to Standards of Conduct Regulations

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This final rule amends the Small Business Administration (SBA) Standards of Conduct Regulations to conform with a government-wide policy regarding exceptions to the prohibition of acceptance of food and refreshments by Executive Branch Employees from prohibited sources.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 4, 1988.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael F. Kinkead, (202) 653-6381.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 30, 1988, SBA published in the Federal Register (53 FR 24727) a notice of proposed rulemaking implementing a memorandum of October 23, 1987 issued by the Office of Government Ethics. The memorandum reiterated that Office's longstanding interpretation of E.O. 11222 and Part 735 of Title 5, CFR, which prohibits the acceptance of free food and refreshment when provided by prohibited sources. The memorandum notes that subsection 201(b) of Executive Order 11222 recognizes that individual agencies may need to provide for certain exceptions to the broad restriction, subject to Office of Government Ethics approval.

During the 30-day comment period, SBA received only one comment and this related to a typographical error which has been corrected.

**Compliance With Executive Order 12291, the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act**

This final rule is solely related to agency personnel and, therefore, is exempted from the coverage of Executive Order 12291. E.O. 12291 section 1(a)(3). In compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, SBA certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities because it relates solely to agency personnel. Finally, this final rule will impose no new reporting or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35.

The following exceptions to this government-wide policy have been approved by the Office of Government Ethics, and are hereby issued as a final rule.

**List of Subjects in 13 CFR Part 105**

Standards of conduct.

Accordingly, SBA amends Part 105, title 13, CFR as follows:

**PART 105—[AMENDED]**

1. The authority citation continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** Sec. 5, 72 Stat. 385 (15 U.S.C. 634); E.O. 11222; 3 CFR 1964-65 Comp.; 5 CFR 735.104.

2. Section 105.503(a)(1) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 105.503 [Amended]**

(a) * * *

(1) Has, or is seeking to obtain directly or as the representative of another, any contractual or other business or financial relations with SBA or any SBA Assistance.

* * * * *

3. Section 105.503(b)(2) is revised to read:

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) The acceptance of food and refreshments of nominal value when:

(i) On infrequent occasions they are provided in the ordinary course of a luncheon or dinner business meeting or other business meeting or on an inspection tour where an employee may properly be in attendance; or

(ii) It is in SBA's interest that an employee attend an event, such as a reception, seminar, conference, or training session, where food or refreshments are being served, provided that, the event is expected to be widely attended and of mutual interest to the Government and the private sector; the food and refreshments offered are not excessive; and the employee obtains prior approval from his immediate supervisor, or in the case of Agency management officials, prior approval from the appropriate Agency Ethics Official. However, where the sponsor of the event is an individual or entity that is directly involved in a matter or matters presently before SBA or otherwise regulated by SBA, the approving official must also determine that the timing of the event or other circumstances surrounding the event do not create a real or apparent conflict of interest.

* * * * *

Dated: September 27, 1988.

James Abdnor,

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 88-22700 Filed 10-3-88; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8025-01-M

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

### 16 CFR Part 13

**[Docket C-3233]**

### The Vons Companies, Inc., et al.; Prohibited Trade Practices, and Affirmative Corrective Actions

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Consent order.

**SUMMARY:** In settlement of alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair acts and practices and unfair methods of competition, this consent order requires, among other things, that The Vons Companies, an El Monte, Ca. corporation, divest certain Safeway stores in the California area.

**DATE:** Complaint and Order issued August 29, 1988.[1]

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joan S. Greenbaum, FTC/S-3302, Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-2629.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On Thursday, June 2, 1988, there was published in the Federal Register, 53 FR 20131, (correction, 53 FR 22022, *extension of comment period*, 53 FR 25502) a proposed consent agreement with analysis In the Matter of The Vons Companies, Inc., SSI Associates, L.P., and Safeway Stores Incorporated, for the purpose of soliciting public comment. Interested parties were given forty five (45) days in which to submit comments, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed form of order.

Comments were filed and considered by the Commission. The Commission has ordered the issuance of the complaint in the form contemplated by the agreement, made its jurisdictional findings and entered an order to divest in disposition of this proceeding.

The prohibited trade practices and/or corrective actions, as codified under 16 CFR Part 13, are as follows: Subpart—Acquiring Corporate Stock Or Assets: *§ 13.5 Acquiring corporate stock or*

[1] Copies of the Complaint, the Decision and Order, and the Commissioners Statements are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, H-130, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580.

*assets; § 13.5–20 Federal Trade Commission Act.* Subpart—Corrective Actions And/Or Requirements: *§ 13.533 Corrective actions and/or requirements; § 13.533–45 Maintain records; § 13.533–45(k) Records, in general; § 13.533–50 Maintain means of communication.*

**List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 13**

Supermarkets, Trade practices.

(Sec. 6, 38 Stat. 721; 15 U.S.C. 46. Interpret or apply sec. 5, 38 Stat. 719, as amended; sec. 7, 38 Stat 731, as amended; 15 U.S.C. 45, 18)

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 88–22789 Filed 10–3–88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

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**16 CFR Part 304**

## Hobby Protection Act; Imitation Numismatic Items

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Final amendment.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Trade Commission, pursuant to the Hobby Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 2101 *et seq.*), has amended § 304.6 of the Rules and Regulations under the Hobby Protection Act (16 CFR Part 304). The rule currently requires that the word "Copy" be marked on imitation numismatic items in dimensions no less than 2 millimeters high and 6 millimeters wide. The amendment permits use of a smaller marking to accommodate coins that are issued as miniature imitations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The amendment will be effective on November 3, 1988.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lewis Franke, Attorney, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326–3009.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Hobby Protection Act requires that all imitation numismatic items sold in, or imported into, the United States shall be marked with the word "Copy" in a manner to be determined by the Federal Trade Commission. In 1975, the Commission promulgated rules requiring the word "Copy" to be marked on either the obverse or the reverse surface of the item. The words must have a vertical dimension of not less than two millimeters and a horizontal dimension of not less than six millimeters. The concept of requiring the word "Copy" to be a minimum size rather than to vary with the size of the coin or words on a coin was selected because it minimized the burden of compliance for industry.

After the rules were promulgated, miniature imitation numismatic items became more popular in the market. Marking some of these miniature imitations has posed a hardship since many are as small as or smaller than the minimum size required for the word "Copy." When an item covered by the rules is of such a small size that it is impossible to conform with the minimum size requirement, the manufacturer must request the Commission to issue a variance.

On May 23, 1983, the Commission published a notice in the **Federal Register** proposing to amend the rules and providing notice to the public of the opportunity to comment. Based on the comments received, the Commission has determined that the amendment is warranted and is in the public interest.

The amendment to the rule permits manufacturers of miniature numismatic items to mark the word "Copy" in smaller dimensions than those required under the present rule. For example, a coin having a diameter of only six millimeters could have the word "Copy" in a horizontal dimension of no less than one-half the diameter or three millimeters. The vertical dimension would be required to be no less than one-sixth of the diameter or one millimeter.

The amendment will facilitate compliance with the rule and thus should result in the lessening of deception. By allowing a relative size for the word "Copy", the amendment will encourage manufacturers and importers to increase the number of imitation miniatures which are properly marked. As a result, more consumers will be put on notice that such coins are imitations and not originals.

The current rule, with its absolute minimum size requirement and use of a variance request procedure, may impede entry into the market for imitation miniature numismatic items. Manufacturers and importers may forego the opportunity to sell imitation miniatures because of the costs and physical difficulties of compliance with the rule. The amendment will eliminate this barrier and should promote competition and allow the increased availability of imitation miniature numismatic items.

Finally, the amendment will eliminate the potential costs, in both time and resources, to industry and the Commission necessitated by individual variance applications for miniature numismatic items.

**List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 304**

Hobbies, Labeling, Trade practices.

Accordingly, Chapter I of 16 CFR Part 304 is amended as follows:

**PART 304—[AMENDED]**

1. The authority citation for Part 304 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.

2. Section 304.1 is amended by adding paragraph (k) to read as follows:

**§ 304.1 Terms defined.**

* * * * *

(k) "Diameter of a reproduction" means the length of the longest possible straight line connecting two points on the perimeter of the reproduction.

3. Section 304.6 is amended by revising paragraphs (b)(3) and (b)(4) to read as follows:

**§ 304.6 Marking requirements for imitation numismatic items.**

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) An imitation numismatic item of incusable material shall be incused with the word "COPY" in sans-serif letters having a vertical dimension of not less than two millimeters (2.0 mm) or not less than one-sixth of the diameter of the reproduction, and a minimum depth of three-tenths of one millimeter (0.3 mm) or to one-half (½) the thickness of the reproduction, whichever is the lesser. The minimum total horizontal dimension of the word "COPY" shall be six millimeters (6.0 mm) or not less than one-half of the diameter of the reproduction.

(4) An imitation numismatic item composed of nonincusable material shall be imprinted with the word "COPY" in sans-serif letters having a vertical dimension of not less than two millimeters (2.0 mm) or not less than one-sixth of the diameter of the reproduction. The minimum total horizontal dimension of the word "COPY" shall be six millimeters (6.0 mm) or not less than one-half of the diameter of the reproduction.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 88–22790 Filed 10–3–88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M