The Deregulation for Small Public Housing Agencies final rule was published in the "Federal Register" on June 24, 2003. It simplifies and streamlines HUD’s regulatory requirements for small public housing agencies (PHAs) that administer the public housing and voucher assistance programs under the United States Housing Act of 1937. Consistent with HUD’s basic regulatory responsibilities, the final rule deregulates the assessment and scoring of small PHAs under the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). Small PHAs are those with fewer than 250 low rent units under management. These PHAs will be assessed every other year unless the PHA is troubled or it chooses to be assessed under PHAS on an annual basis. This change will reduce administrative burden and better enable small PHAs to focus on their core mission of providing decent, safe and affordable housing for the neediest American families.