Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of regulations and standards issued under the Animal Welfare Act for guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits. Enforcement of the Act and regulations require documentation of specified information concerning the transportation of these animals.

The regulations for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits require intermediate handlers and carriers to only accept shipping enclosures that meet the minimum requirements set forth in the regulations (§3.36) or are accompanied by documentation signed by the consignor verifying that the shipping enclosures comply with the regulations. If guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits are transported in cargo space that falls below 45 °F (7.2 °C), the regulations specify that the animals must be accompanied by a certificate of acclimation signed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture accredited veterinarian.

In addition, all shipping enclosures must be marked “Live Animals” and have arrows indicating the correct upright position of the container. Intermediate handlers and carriers are required to attempt to contact the consignee at least once every 6 hours upon the arrival of any live animals. Documentation of these attempts must be recorded by the intermediate handlers and carriers and maintained for inspection by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) personnel.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .125 hours per response.

Respondents: Intermediate handlers, carriers, “A” and “B” dealers (as consignors), USDA accredited veterinarians.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1470.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.408.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 260 hours.
Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases; Notice of Solicitation for Membership

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for membership.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that we anticipate renewing the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases for a 2-year period. The Secretary is soliciting nominations for membership for this Committee.

DATES: Consideration will be given to nominations received on or before April 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Nominations received should be addressed to the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Williams, Chief Staff Veterinarian, Emergency Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231, (301) 734–8073.

Supplementary Information:

The Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on actions necessary to keep foreign diseases of livestock and poultry from being introduced into the United States. In addition, the Committee advises on contingency planning and on maintaining a state of preparedness to deal with these diseases, if introduced. The Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee from among its members. Terms will expire for the current members of the Committee in June 1996. We are soliciting nominations from interested organizations and individuals to replace members on the Committee. An organization may nominate individuals from within or outside its membership. The Secretary will select members to obtain the broadest possible representation on the Committee, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regulation 1041–1. Equal opportunity practices, in line with the USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of March 1996.

Lonnie J. King, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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