

marketing of agricultural commodities. An administrative committee, comprised of growers and handlers appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, locally administers each order. A major function of these administrative committees is to recommend to the Secretary administrative rules and order amendments. AMS reviews administrative committee recommendations for regulatory action and accompanying justifications for consistency with the regulatory authorities provided in the marketing order, as well as Department policy and the potential impact on small businesses. Issuance of marketing order regulations follows procedures prescribed by the Administrative Procedure Act. In addition, the AMS must adhere to a number of other statutes in issuing rulemaking, including the RFA.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory and informational requirements to the size and scale of business entities in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the rule and applicable statutes. The RFA requires agencies to identify regulatory situations in which there is (or will be) a significant economic impact, as measured by costs and other factors, on a substantial number of small entities. The survey results will provide information on handler costs, revenues, and other related factors which will allow AMS to evaluate impacts of proposed rulemaking recommendations on handlers who may be classified as small entities under the RFA.

These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Handlers (e.g., shippers and others as defined under the respective programs) regulated under marketing orders.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,650.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 825 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000. All response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, May 8, 1996.

Donald M. Bay,

*Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-12326 Filed 5-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### U.S. Automotive Parts Advisory Committee; Closed Meeting

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Closed meeting of U.S. Automotive Parts Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Automotive Parts Advisory Committee (the "Committee") advises U.S. Government officials on matters relating to the implementation of the Fair Trade in Auto Parts Act of 1988. The Committee: (1) reports annually to the Secretary of Commerce on barriers to sales of U.S.-made auto parts and accessories in Japanese markets; (2) assists the Secretary in reporting to the Congress on the progress of sales of U.S.-made auto parts in Japanese markets, including the formation of long-term supplier relationships; (3) reviews and considers data collected on sales of U.S.-made auto parts to Japanese markets; (4) advises the Secretary during consultations with the Government of Japan on these issues; and 5) assists in

establishing priorities for the Department's initiatives to increase U.S.-made auto parts sales to Japanese markets, and otherwise provide assistance and direction to the Secretary in carrying out these initiatives. At the meeting, committee members will discuss specific trade and sales expansion programs related to U.S.-Japan automotive parts policy.

**DATE AND LOCATION:** The meeting will be held on June 5, 1996 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Robert Reck, Office of Automotive Affairs, Trade Development, Room 4036, Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone: (202) 482-1418.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel formally determined on July 5, 1994, pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Act, as amended, that the series of meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee and of any subcommittee thereof, dealing with privileged or confidential commercial information may be exempt from the provisions of the Act relating to open meeting and public participation therein because these items are concerned with matters that are within the purview of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and (9)(B). A copy of the Notice of Determination is available for public inspection and copying in the Department of Commerce Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, Main Commerce.

Dated: May 7, 1996.

Henry P. Misco,

*Director, Office of Automotive Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 96-12244 Filed 5-15-96; 8:45 am]

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## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050996A]

### Endangered Species; Permits

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application for a scientific research permit (P521C).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Drs. James Spotila and Pamela Plotkin of Drexel University in PA have applied in due form for a permit to take listed sea turtles for the purpose of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application

must be received on or before June 17, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-893-3141).

Written comments, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Application (P521C) requests a permit under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227). The applicants request authorization to capture 75 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 75 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), 10 green (*Chelonia mydas*) 5 leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and 1 hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles annually in Delaware Bay from June 1996 to October 1997. The turtles will be examined, measured, photographed, passive integrated transponder-tagged, and have blood and fecal samples taken. Six turtles will be attached with radio-transmitters and tracked. One incidental sea turtle mortality is requested. The purpose of the research is to assess distribution and population dynamics of sea turtles in Delaware Bay, information helpful to manage impacts to sea turtles from human activities.

Those individuals requesting a hearing should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in this application summary are those of the applicants and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: May 10, 1996.

Eric H. Ostrovsky,  
Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-12241 Filed 5-15-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

**Technology Administration**

[Docket No. 960508127-6127-01]

RIN 0693-XX18

**Federal Agency Guidance for the Acquisition of Modular Metric Construction Products**

**AGENCY:** Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Publication of Federal Agency Guidance.

**SUMMARY:** These guidelines provide information and a policy statement for Federal agency implementation of metric-usage requirements in the acquisition of modular construction products. After a review process starting on April 12, 1996, the guidelines were approved by the Interagency Council on Metric Policy on May 3, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ralph Richter, Metric Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 820, Room 306, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Phone (301) 975-3690.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-418, section 5164) amended the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 to, among other things, require that each Federal agency use metric measurements to the maximum extent feasible in its procurements and business-related activities. To fully implement this legislation within the Federal agencies, Executive Order 12770, "Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs," was signed by President Bush in 1991. The Federal agencies are required to encourage and support an environment that facilitates the U.S. transition to the metric system of measurement.

Using the Executive Order and the 1988 amendments as guidance, the agencies involved in the construction of federal buildings and facilities have made substantial progress in the adoption of metric measurements. During this metrication process, the Government's construction agencies have worked closely with the private sector to reach a consensus among all of the interested parties: building material manufacturers, trade associations, design firms, and construction contractors.

Dimensions for the vast majority of construction products need only be "soft-converted" for use in metric construction projects. A soft metric conversion means that the physical

dimensions of the product remain unchanged while the measurement units used to describe and specify the product are changed to metric units. To make metric construction succeed, however, a small percentage of products need their physical dimensions "hard-converted" to fit the product into the internationally recognized building module of 100 millimeters. These products are frequently referred to as modular products.

Just as it is logical and cost effective for inch-pound construction projects to use modular products that fit into the 4-inch module, it is logical and cost effective for metric construction projects to employ modular products that fit into the 100 mm module.

Modular construction products are brick, concrete block, suspended ceiling systems—including recessed lighting fixtures and air diffusers, raised access flooring, wallboard, plywood, particle board, and rigid insulation.

Before a modular construction product in a hard metric size is specified in a federal construction project, the product's application must require it to fit together with other modular metric components, and the product must be found to be available at a reasonable cost.

The statutory language in the 1988 legislation provides the necessary flexibility for appropriate implementation of this policy on modular construction products—the Federal agencies are required to forego metric conversion when it is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms. The intent of the law is to pursue metrication for increased cost-effectiveness and productivity in U.S. business and greater access to international markets while avoiding any undue burden on American firms.

**General Policy**

(a) As construction metrication efforts continue, the Government's construction agencies shall continue to work closely with all interested private sector parties: building material manufacturers, trade association, design firms, and construction contractors. Consensus, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness shall be the goal.

(b) The Federal agencies shall conduct market research to determine the availability of modular metric construction products before developing new procurement specifications. Procurement officials in each agency, to the maximum extent practicable, shall specify commercial items or nondevelopmental items other than