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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-032-1]

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 under the Animal Welfare Act governing the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by dealers, research institutions, exhibitors, carriers, and intermediate handlers.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 16, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 96-032-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket 96-032-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call

ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information on the regulations and standards governing the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by dealers, research institutions, exhibitors, carriers, and intermediate handlers, contact Dr. Debra Beasley, Senior Animal Care Staff Officer, Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7833; or e-mail: DBeasley@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of the proposed collection of information, contact Ms. Cheryl Jenkins, Aphis' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Animal Welfare.

OMB Number: 0579-0036.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 1996.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Regulations and standards have been promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) to promote and ensure the humane care and treatment of regulated animals under the Act. Title 9, parts 1 through 3, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) contain regulations and standards for the care and handling of certain animals covered under the Act. The regulations in 9 CFR part 2 require documentation of specified information concerning the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by dealers, research institutions, exhibitors, carriers, and intermediate handlers. The regulations also require that facilities that use animals for regulated purposes obtain a license or register with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Act is enforced by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA, which performs unannounced inspections of regulated facilities. A significant component of the inspection process is review of mandatory records that must be established and maintained by regulated facilities. The information contained in these records is used by APHIS inspectors to ensure that dealers, research facilities, exhibitors, intermediate handlers, carriers, pounds,

and shelters comply with the Act and regulations.

Facilities must make and maintain records that contain official identification for all dogs and cats, and certification of those animals received from pounds, shelters, and private individuals. These records are used to prevent the intentional use of stolen pets for regulated activities. Records must also be maintained for animals other than dogs and cats when the animals are used for purposes regulated under the Act.

Research facilities must also make and maintain additional records for animals covered under the Act that are used for teaching, testing, and experimentation. This information is used by APHIS personnel to review the research facility's animal care and use program concerning animal activities regulated under the Act.

The reporting and recordkeeping requirements contained in 9 CFR part 2 are necessary to enforce regulations intended to ensure the humane care and treatment of covered animals. The collected information is also used by APHIS to provide a mandatory annual Animal Welfare Enforcement report to Congress.

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 collection of information 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, and 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 1.167 hours per response.

Respondents: Research facilities, "A" and "B" dealers, exhibitors, carriers, intermediate handlers, pounds, and shelters.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8,564.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 10.152.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 86,945 hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of June 1996.

Terry L. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-15280 Filed 6-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission For OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of the Census.

Title: Current Retail Sales and Inventory Survey.

Form Number(s): B-101(97), 102(97), 103(97), 111(97), 112(97), 113(97), 114(97).

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0717.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 30,693 hours.

Number of Respondents: 11,060.

Avg Hours Per Response: 14 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Current Retail Sales and Inventory Survey provides estimates of monthly sales and end-of-month merchandise inventories for retail stores in the United States by selected kinds of business. Sales and inventory data provide a current statistical picture of the retail portion of consumer activity. Monthly estimates of changes in sales and the value and levels of inventory are used by government and non-government analysts in gauging economic trends and formulating economic policy. The current sampling methodology for this survey uses both fixed and rotating panels. Larger companies report monthly in the fixed panel. Most small and medium sized companies report every three months and are asked to report data for the two most recent months. The current design is

susceptible to large revisions in preliminary-to-final estimates due to imbalances in the rotating panels and differential response bias between current and previous month data. We will implement a totally fixed panel design for the next sample revision starting in early 1997 in order to minimize these revisions. The sample redesign will also permit more accurate identification of unusual responses and will facilitate reconciling differences with other Census Bureau surveys. We plan to gauge and monitor the effects of the sample redesign on an ongoing basis.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit institutions.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Jerry Coffey, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Dan Haigler, Acting DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5312, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Jerry Coffey, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: June 6, 1996.

Dan Haigler,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 96-15241 Filed 6-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-F

Submission For OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of the Census.

Title: Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey.

Form Number(s): B-310.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0190.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 4,614 hours.

Number of Respondents: 3,298.

Avg Hours Per Response: 7 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Bureau of the Census conducts the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey to obtain sales and inventory data from a sample of

merchant wholesalers. From the data we gather, we produce statistics on wholesale sales, end-of-month inventories, methods of inventory valuation, and stock/sales ratios. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses these statistics in its calculations of the gross domestic product (GDP) and to improve the reliability of inventory adjustments applied in the quarterly GDP estimates. The Bureau of Labor Statistics uses these statistics as input to its Producer Price Indexes and in developing productivity measurements. Other government agencies and businesses use these statistics for planning and development and to gauge the current trends of the economy. Current data on wholesale trade also enable us to make comparisons with the five-year wholesale census data. The current sampling methodology for this survey uses both fixed and rotating panels. Larger companies report monthly in the fixed panel. Most small and medium sized companies report every three months and are asked to report data for the two most recent months. The current design is susceptible to large revisions in preliminary-to-final estimates due to imbalances in the rotating panels and differential response bias between current and previous month data. We will implement a totally fixed panel design for the next sample revision starting in early 1997 in order to minimize these revisions. The sample redesign will also permit more accurate identification of unusual responses and will facilitate reconciling differences with other Census Bureau surveys. We plan to gauge and monitor the effects of the sample redesign on an ongoing basis.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit institutions, Federal Government, State, local or tribal government.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Jerry Coffey, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Dan Haigler, Acting DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5312, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

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