

## ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES—Continued

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
Estimated total annual burden hours: .....	.....	.....	.....	3,648

**Additional Information:** ACF is requesting that OMB grant a 180 day approval for this information collection under procedures for emergency processing by March 21, 1997. A copy of this information collection, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Administration for Children and Families, Reports Clearance Officer, Larry Guerrero at (202) 401-6465.

Comments and questions about the information collection described above should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, ATTN: OMB Desk Officer for ACF, Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project, 725 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503, (202) 395-7316.

Dated: February 28, 1997.

Bob Sargis,

*Acting Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-5451 Filed 3-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-M

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 97G-0063]

#### **Cerestar Holding Co. B.V., Mitsubishi Chemical Corp., and Nikken Chemicals Co., Ltd.; Filing of Petition for Affirmation of GRAS Status**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Cerestar Holding Co. B.V., Mitsubishi Chemical Corp., and Nikken Chemicals Co., Ltd., have filed a petition (GRASP 7G0422) proposing to affirm that the use of erythritol is generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as an ingredient in human food.

**DATES:** Written comments by May 20, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rosalie M. Angeles, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-

205), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3107.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (secs. 201(s) and 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 321(s) and 348(b)(5)) and the regulations for affirmation of GRAS status in § 170.35 (21 CFR 170.35), notice is given that Cerestar Holding Co. B.V., Mitsubishi Chemical Corp., and Nikken Chemicals Co., Ltd., c/o Hyman, Phelps & McNamara, 700 13th St. NW., suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005, have filed a petition (GRASP 7G0422) proposing that erythritol be affirmed as GRAS for use as an ingredient in human food.

The petition has been placed on display at the Dockets Management Branch (address above).

Any petition that meets the requirements outlined in §§ 170.30 (21 CFR 170.30) and 170.35 is filed by the agency. There is no pre-filing review of the adequacy of data to support a GRAS conclusion. Thus, the filing of a petition for GRAS affirmation should not be interpreted as a preliminary indication of suitability for GRAS affirmation.

The potential environmental impact of this action is being reviewed. If the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's finding of no significant impact and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the Federal Register in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

Interested persons may, on or before May 20, 1997, review the petition and file comments with the Dockets Management Branch (address above). Two copies of any comments should be filed and should be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Comments should include any available information that would be helpful in determining whether the substance is, or is not, GRAS for the proposed use. In addition, consistent with the regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency encourages public participation by review of and comment on the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the

subject of this notice. A copy of the petition (including the environmental assessment) and received comments may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: February 12, 1997.

George H. Pauli,

*Acting Director, Office of Premarket Approval, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.*

[FR Doc. 97-5454 Filed 3-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

### Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-3427]

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Health Care Financing Administration.

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following proposals for the collection of information. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

**Type of Information Collection Request:** Reinstatement, with change, of previously approved collection for which approval has expired; **Title of Information Collection:** End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Application and Survey and Certification Report Form; **Form No.:** HCFA-3427; **Use:** This form is a facility identification and screening measurement tool used to initiate the certification and recertification of ESRD