

nonparticipation to be administered to both FSP participants and FSP-eligible nonparticipants who are working poor or poor elderly. Eight questionnaire versions and a screening interview will be pre-tested through this study; the refined instruments may be fielded under a separate, later effort.

Affected Public: Working poor and elderly poor food stamp participants and nonparticipants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: Two hundred sixty-eight (268) FSP-eligible nonparticipants who are either working poor or elderly poor will be identified through telephone screening of a random-digit-dialing sample of households with phones, and half will be administered a short version of the eligible nonparticipant questionnaire and half will be administered a long version. To identify these 268 eligible nonparticipants, a screening interview will be administered to an estimated 8,375 people. A sample of 132 current program participants who are either working poor or poor elderly will be identified from program administrative records or random-digit-dialing screening, and half will be administered a short version of the participant questionnaire and half will be administered a long version. Brief screening interviews will be administered to an estimated 155 people to identify the sample of 132 participants. The total number of respondents to screening interviews will be 8,530 and the total number of respondents to questionnaires will be 400.

Estimated Time per Response: The screening interview for eligible nonparticipants averages 5 minutes each, and the screening interview for participants averages 1.5 minutes each. Long questionnaires average 30 minutes each, and short questionnaires average 15 minutes each.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 853 hours.

Dated: May 21, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-039N]

Exemption for Retail Stores; Adjustment of Dollar Limitations

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: FSIS has increased the limitation on annual sales of meat and poultry products by retail stores exempt from Federal inspection. The dollar limitation for poultry products has been increased from \$35,700 to \$37,900 for calendar year 1997; the dollar limitation for meat products has been increased from \$38,900 to \$40,300 for calendar year 1997. These increases conform with price changes for meat and poultry products indicated by the Consumer Price Index.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Food Safety and Inspection Service, (202) 205-0699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in 9 CFR 303.1(d) and 381.10(d), FSIS exempts certain retail stores from routine Federal inspection of meat and poultry products. Whether a retail store qualifies for an exemption depends, in part, upon the percentage and volume of trade in meat and poultry products it conducts with non-household consumers (hotels, restaurants, or similar institutions). The regulations state in dollars the maximum amount of meat and poultry products a retail store may sell to non-household consumers if that store is to remain exempt from inspection.

FSIS adjusts the dollar limitation during the first quarter of each calendar year if the Consumer Price Index, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicates at least a \$500 increase or decrease in the price of the same volume of product during the previous year. FSIS publishes a notice of the adjusted dollar limitation in the **Federal Register**.

The Consumer Price Index for 1996 indicates an average annual price increase in meat products of 3.5 percent and an average annual price increase in poultry products of 6.2 percent. When rounded off to the nearest \$100, the price increase for meat products amounts to \$1,400 and the price increase for poultry products amounts to \$2,200. Prices of meat and poultry, therefore, have changed in excess of \$500. Accordingly, in accordance with §§ 303.1(d)(2)(iii)(b) and 381.10(d)(2)(iii)(b) of the regulations, FSIS has increased the dollar limitation of permitted sales of meat products from \$38,900 to \$40,300 and raised the dollar

limitation of permitted sales for poultry products from \$35,700 to \$37,900.

Done in Washington, DC, May 28, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator, Food Safety Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-040N]

Codex Alimentarius: Sessions of the Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA); the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are sponsoring a public meeting on June 4, 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items to be discussed at the Forty-fourth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the Twenty-second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 19-20, 1997, and June 23-28, 1997, respectively.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 1997, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Franklin Square, 1155 14th Street, NW (at Massachusetts Avenue) Washington, DC 20005; telephone (202) 737-1200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Patrick J. Clerkin, Director, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, Room 311 West End Court, 1255 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20250-3700; telephone (202) 418-8852; Fax: (202) 418-8865.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards,