movement of items that harbor potentially harmful plant diseases and pests can be controlled and monitored.

Another means we employ to control and monitor the movement of these potentially harmful items is to require shippers to mark each container, waybill, manifest, or bill of lading with certain information, such as the nature and quantity of the contents, name and address of the shipper/owner/forwarder, name of consignee, shipper's identifying mark and number, and the serial number of the certificate or limited permit authorizing the movement.

These and other information gathering tools are critical to our mission of protecting the United States from plant diseases and pests which, if allowed to spread, could cause millions of dollars in damage to U.S. agriculture.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the continued use of these information collection activities.

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: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .09838 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. growers, shippers, and exporters; State and county plant health protection authorities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 174,072.

Estimated Numbers of Responses per Respondent: 5.775.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses: 1,005,331.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 98,910 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of September 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97–25485 Filed 9–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97–098–1]

In Vitro Testing of Veterinary Biologics; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is hosting a public meeting to discuss the implementation of guidelines for the in vitro testing of veterinary biologics.

PLACE, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING: The meeting will be held in the main auditorium of the National Animal Disease Center, 2300 Dayton Road, Ames, IA. The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on Thursday, October 16, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jeanette Greenberg, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; telephone (301) 734–8400; fax (301) 734–8910; or E-mail: jgreenberg@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a final rule published on April 18, 1997 (62 FR 19033–19039, Docket No. 94–051–3), we amended our regulations in 9 CFR part 113 to provide for the use of in vitro potency tests when conducting immunoassays to determine the relative antigen content (potency) of a serial of inactivated veterinary biological product once immunogenicity is established using host animal tests. The amended regulations provide that such tests are to be conducted using unexpired immunogenic reference preparations and parallel line assay or another method that is at least equivalent to the parallel line assay in terms of its linearity, specificity, and reproducibility.

The purpose of the public meeting announced in this notice is to present and discuss draft guidelines pertaining to the qualification and requalification of reference preparations used in in vitro immunoassays affected by the change in the regulations.

The meeting on October 16, 1997, will begin at 8 a.m. and end at noon; however, the meeting may end earlier if all persons desiring to speak have been heard. No advance registration is necessary to attend this meeting.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of September 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97–25484 Filed 9–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97–090–1]

User Fees; Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice pertains to user fees charged for agricultural quarantine and inspection services we provide in connection with commercial vessels, commercial trucks, commercial railroad cars, commercial aircraft, and international airline passengers arriving at ports in the Customs territory of the United States. The purpose of this notice is to remind the public of the user fees for fiscal year 1998 (October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information concerning program Operations, contact Mr. Jim Smith, Operations Officer, Program Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 60, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236, (301) 734–8295.

For information concerning rate development, contact Ms. Donna Ford, User Fees Section Head, FSSB, BAD, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 54, Riverdale, MD 20737–1232, (301) 734–8351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 7 CFR 354.3 (referred to below as the ''regulations'') contain provisions for the collection of user fees for agricultural quarantine and inspection (AQI) services provided by