

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 .5422 hours per response.

Respondents: Animal agricultural producers, veterinary practitioners, and animal related industries.

Estimated number of respondents: 10,843.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 3.2295.

Estimated annual number of responses: 35,018.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 18,987 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 9th day of October 1997.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Proposal To Collect Information on Transactions of U.S. Parent Companies With Their Foreign Affiliates

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing

effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13(44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instructions should be directed to: R. David Belli, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, BE-50(OC), Washington, DC. 20230 (Telephone 202-606-9800).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Form BE-577, Direct Transactions of U.S. Reporter with Foreign Affiliate, obtains quarterly sample data on transactions and positions between U.S. business enterprises and their foreign affiliates. The data are needed for compiling the U.S. balance of payments accounts, the international investment position of the United States, and the national income and product accounts. The data are also needed to measure the amount of U.S. direct investment abroad, monitor changes in such investment, assess its impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, and, based on this assessment, make informed policy decisions regarding U.S. direct investment abroad.

The form will incorporate a single minor revision. It will now request corrections, if any, that might be necessary in the foreign affiliate's three-digit industry classification that appears on the form. In the past, respondents were required to file Form BE-507, Industry Classification Questionnaire, to report changes in industry classification. As a result of this revision proposed to Form BE-577, Form BE-507 is being discontinued.

II. Method of Collection

Form BE-577 is a quarterly report that is sent to U.S. parent companies to file for their foreign affiliates. Reports must be filed within 30 days after the end of each quarter (45 days after final quarter of the foreign affiliate's fiscal year) for every foreign business enterprise that is

owned 10 percent or more by a U.S. person and that has total assets, sales, or net income (or loss) of over \$20 million. Potential respondents are the U.S. parent companies of foreign business enterprises that reported in the last benchmark survey of U.S. direct investment abroad, along with the U.S. parent companies of those affiliates that subsequently entered the direct investment universe. The data collected are sample data covering transactions and positions between U.S. business enterprises and their foreign affiliates. Universe estimates are developed from the reported sample data.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0608-0004.

Form Number: BE-577.

Type of Review: Renewal with revision.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Responses: 12,800 per quarter; 51,200 annually.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1.25 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 64,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$1,920,000 (based on an estimated reporting burden of 64,000 hours and an estimated hourly cost of \$30).

IV. Request for 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 has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 9, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

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