

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-007N]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will meet from March 3 to March 6, 1998, to discuss Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices for fresh produce and research strategies to meet the goals of the Food Safety Initiative and the Domestic and Imported Produce Food Safety Initiative. The Committee also will be discussing Foods Exposed to Refrigeration Failure, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) concepts for the very small slaughter plant, Codex issues, and developing guidelines for food safety objectives.

DATES: The Fresh Produce Subcommittee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 1998. The full Committee will meet on March 4, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Subcommittee groups will meet March 4, 1998, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 5. The full Committee will meet March 6, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Georgia International Convention Center, 1902 Sullivan Road, College Park, GA 30337-0508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Committee encourages persons with information or data on the above matters to present their comments. Persons interested in making presentations, submitting technical papers, or providing comments are requested to mail or FAX (202) 501-7628 their name,

title, firm name, address, and telephone number to Ms. Amelia L. Wright, Advisory Committee Specialist, Scientific Research Oversight Staff, Department of Agriculture, Suite 6913, Franklin Court, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Comments and requests also may be provided by E-mail to amelia.wright@usda.gov. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify the contact person referenced above by February 19, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The meeting will be open to the public on a space-available basis. Persons wishing to make an oral presentation should notify the contacts listed above. Presentations will be scheduled on a time-available basis in accordance with the timeliness of the written request. Comments may be made before or after the meeting. Technical papers also will be accepted and made part of the public record. All comments and proceedings will become part of the public record of the meeting.

NACMCF provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services about the development of microbiological criteria to assess the safety and wholesomeness of food. The Committee also provides guidance to the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Done at Washington, DC, on: February 19, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-4941 Filed 2-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) intention to request an extension for a currently

approved information collection in support of the regulations governing the entry of speciality sugar under the tariff-rate quota into the United States.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 27, 1998 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Mail or deliver comments to Stephen C. Hammond, Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1021, Washington, DC 20250-1021, (202) 720-1061.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Speciality Sugar Import Licensing.

OMB Number: 0551-0025.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

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

Abstract: The quota system established by Presidential Proclamation No. 4941 prevented the importation of certain refined sugars used for specialized purposes originating in countries which did not have quota allocations. Therefore, the Department of Agriculture published the regulations at 15 CFR part 2011—Allocation of Tariff-Rate Quota on Imported Sugars, Syrups and Molasses, Subpart B—Speciality Sugar, requiring certificates of quota eligibility for entering specialty sugar. Applicants must supply the information required by 15 CFR 2011.205 to apply for a speciality sugar certificate. In order to grant the certificates, ensure that imported specialty sugar does not disrupt the current domestic sugar support program, and effectively administer the issuance of the certificates, certain specific information on an application must be collected from those who wish to participate in the program established by the regulation.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 60 hours.