

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

Economic Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval to Collect Information

AGENCY: Economic Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a survey of cattle, hog, chicken, and turkey slaughter and processing plants. The survey would contain questions on the costs of implementing and maintaining a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system and the usage of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods. These data will be used to examine the costs of HACCP regulation, to link the use of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods to plant pathogen data provided by the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), to assess the extent of the adoption of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods, to develop indexes of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods that could be used to learn how technology and methods adoption progresses over time and how changes in technology levels affects plant-level pathogens, and to examine characteristics of plants that adopt particular classes of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 10, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Michael Ollinger, Economist, Diet, Safety, Health Economics Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division,

Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street NW Room N-3064, Washington, DC 20036-5831, 202-694-5454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Pathogen Reduction and Innovation Under HACCP Regulation in Cattle, Hog, Chicken, and Turkey Slaughter and Processing Plants.

Type of Request: Approval to collect data on the cost to industry of HACCP regulation and the use of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods.

Abstract: ERS is responsible for economic research on the economics of pathogen control regulation and HACCP regulation in the meat and poultry industries. Recent estimates suggest that microbial pathogens cause 6.5-33 million cases of human illness and up to 9,000 deaths each year. These findings have made food safety a major White House policy priority and have led FSIS to implement HACCP regulation. FSIS estimates that this regulation will reduce foodborne illness by 90% and cost industry \$1 billion over 20 years. However, some economists, policy-makers, and firms assert that producer costs will be much higher and disproportionately affect small firms. Moreover, they argue that the lost revenues and profits due to product recalls, reputation losses, and reduced product shelf-life give industry strong incentives to reduce pathogens and that industry's approach to pathogen-reduction is less costly than government regulation.

Answers to questions of regulatory costs and incentives to use pathogen-reducing technologies and methods requires data. However, these data do not exist and there is no plan to obtain them. The objective of this proposal is to generate survey data that will illustrate both the costs of HACCP regulation and industry usage of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods. The data and subsequent analyses will be useful for policy-makers in making regulatory decisions and provide general information to the public about industry efforts to reduce pathogens.

The data would be used by economists to assess the costs of HACCP regulation, to link the use of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods to plant pathogen data provided by the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), to assess the extent of the adoption of

pathogen-reducing technologies and methods, to develop indexes of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods that could be used to learn how technology and methods adoption progresses over time and how changes in technology levels affects plant-level pathogens, and to examine characteristics of plants that adopt particular classes of pathogen-reducing technologies and methods.

Estimates of Burden: Public reporting burden for this data collection is estimated to average 30 minutes.

Respondents: Federally registered cattle, hog, chicken, and turkey slaughter and processing manufacturing plants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Estimated Total Burden on Respondents: 1,000 hours.

Copies of Information: Copies of the information to be collected can be obtained from Michael Ollinger, Economist, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street NW, Room N-3064, Washington, DC 20036-5831, (202) 694-5454.

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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Michael Ollinger, Economist, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street NW, Room N-3064, Washington, DC 20036-5831, (202) 694-5454. 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.

Dated: June 14, 1999.

Betsy Kuhn,

Director, Food and Rural Economics Division.

[FR Doc. 99-17532 Filed 7-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Submission for OMB Review:
Comment Request**

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13.

Agency: International Trade Administration.

Title: Participation Agreement and Trade Mission Application.

Agency Form Number: ITA-4008P-1.

OMB Number: 0625-0147.

Type of Request: Revision-Emergency Submission.

Burden: 2,688 hours.

Number of Respondents: 7,500.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 20 minutes—65 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Participation Agreement and Trade Mission Application forms are the vehicles by which individual firms agree to participate in the Department of Commerce's (DOC) trade promotion program, identify the products or services they intend to sell or promote, and record their required participation fees. DOC is revising the current Form ITA-4008P-1, "Trade Mission Application," to clarify and refine the information sought, which relates to industry sector and principal line of business, size of company, content of products, and export experience. Two questions are being added to assist in verifying the legitimacy of a company and performing background security checks on applicants seeking to participate in trade missions led by the Secretary of Commerce.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for profit, not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit, voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-7340.

Copies of the above information collection can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, Department Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent to

David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington DC 20503 within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: July 6, 1999.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-17570 Filed 7-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-FP-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Applicant Background

Questionnaire.

Form Number(s): BC-1431.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0494.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 133,333 hours.

Number of Respondents: 3,200,000.

Avg Hours Per Response: 2.5 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Applicant Background Questionnaire is completed on a voluntary basis by applicants for temporary (Schedule A) positions with the Census Bureau at the time of application and testing. Temporary positions normally last 8-12 weeks, and applicants must meet the minimum qualifications of a written test. The BC-1431 is used to collect minority and handicapped information in order for the Census Bureau to evaluate its Schedule A recruitment program and to strengthen affirmative action recruitment. This information is useful in determining whether we have a representative sample of the community from which we are hiring and allows us to adjust recruiting efforts quickly and to employ local applicants for indigenous hiring. Background information provided by applicants will not be used in applicant screening or selection and will not be available to the selecting official. An applicant's decision to complete or not complete this form will not affect his or her opportunity to be selected for a position with the Census Bureau.

The expected number of applicants for temporary Census Bureau jobs is increasing significantly because of our efforts to hire over 800,000 enumerators for Census 2000. In this request, we seek

an addition to annual reporting burden to cover this increase.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: One-time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Pub. L. 92-261; Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Section 717.— Pub. L. 94-311; Joint Resolution relating to the publication of economic and social statistics for Americans of Spanish origin or descent.—43 FR 38297, Section 4; Information on Impact.—“ 5 U.S.C. 7201; Anti-discrimination Policy; Minority Recruitment Program.

OMB Desk Officer: Linda Hutton, (202) 395-7858.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Linda Hutton, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: July 6, 1999.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-17571 Filed 7-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Notice of Meeting With Interested Public on the Sale of Medicines, Medical Products, Food and Agricultural Items to Cuba

The Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) will hold a meeting on July 15, 1999 for those companies and organizations that have an interest in exporting medicines and medical products, food and agricultural items for sale to Cuba. U.S. Government officials will provide information at this meeting on how to apply for export of such items to Cuba.

The meeting will be held July 15, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6800, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

If you plan to attend, please fax your name and company or organizational affiliation to (202) 482-6088 or (202)