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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-055-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of provisions of the Animal Welfare Act regulations related to the humane transportation of animals in commerce.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 7, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-055-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 04-055-1.
- E-mail: Address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 04-055-1" on the subject line.
- Agency Web Site: Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/cominst.html> for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.

Reading Room. You may read any comments that we receive on this

docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information, including the names of groups and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the Animal Welfare Act regulations for the humane transportation of animals in commerce by foreign air carriers, contact Dr. Jerry DePoyster, Senior Veterinary Medical Officer, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7586. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Transportation of Animals on Foreign Air Carriers.

OMB Number: 0579-0247.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The regulations contained in 9 CFR chapter I, subchapter A, part 3, provide standards for the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation, by regulated entities, of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA, 7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*). The regulations in part 3 are divided into six subparts, each of which contains facility and operating standards, animal health and husbandry standards, and transportation standards for a specific category of animals and consist of the following: Subpart A—dogs and cats; subpart B—guinea pigs and hamsters; subpart C—rabbits; subpart D—nonhuman primates; subpart E—marine mammals; and subpart F—warmblooded animals other than dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, nonhuman primates, and marine mammals. Transportation standards for dogs and cats are contained in §§ 3.13 through 3.19; for guinea pigs and hamsters, in

§§ 3.35 through 3.41; for rabbits, in §§ 3.60 through 3.66; for nonhuman primates, in §§ 3.86 through 3.92; for marine mammals, in §§ 3.112 through 3.118; and for all other warmblooded animals, in §§ 3.136 through 3.142.

Foreign air carriers, as well as domestic carriers, transporting animals covered under the AWA to or from any point within the United States, its territories, possessions, or the District of Columbia must comply with the transportation standards and are required to register as a carrier with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and keep and maintain records pertaining to animal transport. These records may include a copy of the consignor's written guarantee of payment for transportation for C.O.D. shipments, a shipping document, an animal health certificate executed and issued by a licensed veterinarian, and, if needed, an acclimation statement indicating that the animal being transported can withstand temperatures colder or warmer than the minimums or maximums specified in the regulations. In addition, depending on the species, the standards may require that instructions for the administration of drugs, medication, other special care, food, and water, as well as other shipping documents, be attached to the outside of the animal's primary enclosure.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for foreign air carriers for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate whether the 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 information collection, 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 information collection 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 0.162037 hours per response.

Respondents: Foreign air carriers transporting animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 20.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 54.

Estimated annual number of responses: 1,080.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 175 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the 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 1st day of July 2004.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 04-15493 Filed 7-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Commerce Automated Job Application System

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 7, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information

should be directed to the attention of Thomas R. Krieder, Computer Specialist, (202) 482-0537, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Human Resources Management, IT Group, 14th & Constitution Ave, NW., Room 5004, Washington, DC 20230, or via e-mail to tkreider@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Commerce automated job application system is a web-based software system that automates the vacancy announcement, application intake, application evaluation, and application referral processes, for positions in the Department of Commerce (DOC).

In the current employment environment qualified job applicants for federal positions are in great demand. The DOC is in direct competition with private industry for the same caliber of candidates with the requisite knowledge and skills to fulfill the mission of the DOC. Consequently, it is imperative that every available technology be employed if the DOC is to remain competitive and meet hiring goals. The information provided by a job applicant will assist the Human Resources Specialists and hiring managers in determining whether an applicant meets the basic qualifications requirements and is best qualified for the position being filled. The job applicant may also voluntarily respond to two surveys. One survey is designed to identify how applicants learned about the job to which they applied. The second survey is to identify their user satisfaction and identify problems/improvements which will make the system more user friendly. The information from both surveys provide data to improve the Commerce recruitment and outreach strategy to attract the best qualified job applicants. In addition, the electronic transmission will expedite the hiring process by reducing the time used in application evaluation, candidate referral and selection, and in the recruitment paperwork distribution/workflow process.

The Commerce automated job application system will provide the DOC with a more user-friendly on-line employment application process and will enable the DOC to process hiring actions in a more efficient and timely manner. The on-line application will provide an electronic real time candidate list that will allow the DOC to review applications from applicants almost instantaneously. Given the immediate hiring needs of the DOC, time consumed in the mail distribution system or paper review of applications

delays the decision-making process by several weeks. The continued use of the electronic application will maintain or increase the speed and accuracy in the employment process. It also streamlines labor and reduces costs.

The use of the Commerce automated job application system fully meets the intent of 5 U.S.C. 2301, which requires that Federal personnel management be implemented consistent with merit system principles.

Since the Commerce automated job application system will be used as an alternative form of employment application, the collection and use of the information requires Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval as outlined in Chapter 4, section A of the Delegated Examining Operations Handbook. The Handbook provides guidance to agencies under a delegated examining authority by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 1104.

II. Method of Collection

Application information is collected electronically from the applicant through the Commerce automated job application system. Applicants may contact the DOC Web site on the Internet where they will find the on-line application and can fill out and submit the form electronically while connected to the Web site. Applicants who do not have access to a personal computer are directed to the servicing Human Resources Office for a paper version of the on-line announcement and application.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0690-0019.

Form Numbers: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, and the Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: On average, the time to complete the on-line application is estimated to be 1 hour. But, depending on the situation, it could take as little as 10 minutes or as long as two hours to complete the on-line application. This is determined by the position for which the applicant is applying, and whether this is the applicant's first application in Commerce automated job application system, or if he or she already has a resume completed in Commerce automated job application system, which automatically fills in approximately 75% of the application's fields.