

responsible for, among other things, the control and eradication of plant pests. The Plant Protection Act authorizes the Department to carry out this mission.

The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Act and does so through the enforcement of its domestic quarantine regulations in 7 CFR part 301.

The Asian longhorned beetle (native to China, Japan, Korea, and the Isle of Hainan) is a destructive pest of hardwood trees, including maple, elm, ash, and horse chestnut. In addition, nursery stock, logs, green lumber, firewood, stumps, roots, branches, and wood debris of a half an inch or more in diameter are subject to infestation. The beetles bore into the heartwood of host trees, eventually killing the tree.

The Asian longhorned beetle has been found in hardwood trees in the boroughs of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens in the city of New York, NY, and in portions of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, NY. The Asian longhorned beetle has also been found in portions of Cook and DuPage Counties, IL, and portions of Hudson County, NJ. If this insect spreads into the hardwood forests of the United States, it could cause substantial economic harm to the U.S. nursery and forest product industries.

To prevent this, we have regulations in place (7 CFR 301.51-1 through 301.51-9) quarantining the areas described above. These regulations also restrict the movement of regulated articles (such as nursery stock, green lumber, firewood, and other items) from these quarantined areas.

These regulations are designed to prevent the spread of the Asian longhorned beetle within the United States. Implementing the regulations requires us to engage in certain information collection activities, which necessitates the use of several forms, including limited permits, certificates, and compliance agreements.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities 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 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 0.4318 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Growers, shippers, exporters, and State plant health officials.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 475.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 1.1894.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 565.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 244 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 11th day of August 2004.

**W. Ron DeHaven,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-18786 Filed 8-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-073-1]

#### 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 associated with regulations governing the importation of tomatoes from Spain, Chile, France,

Morocco, and Western Sahara to prevent the introduction of foreign plant pests into the United States.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before October 18, 2004.

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

- **EDOCKET:** Go to <http://www.epa.gov/feddoCKET> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once you have entered EDOCKET, click on the "View Open APHIS Dockets" link to locate this document.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-073-1, 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. 04-073-1.

- **E-mail:** Address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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. 04-073-1" 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 regarding foreign quarantine regulations, contact, Hesham Abuelnaga, Import Specialist, Phytosanitary Issues Management, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5334. 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:* Importation of Tomatoes from Spain, Chile, France, Morocco, and Western Sahara.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0131.

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

*Abstract:* The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for, among other things, preventing the introduction and dissemination of plant pests into or through the United States and eradicating plant pests in the United States. The Plant Protection Act authorizes the Department to carry out this mission. The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is responsible for implementing the regulations that carry out the intent of this Act.

The regulations in "Subpart-Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56 through 319.56-8) prohibit or restrict the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent the introduction of plant pests, including fruit flies, that are new to or not widely distributed within the United States.

The regulations in 319.56-2dd allow tomatoes from Spain, Chile, France, Morocco, and Western Sahara to be imported into the United States subject to certain conditions. Allowing tomatoes to be imported necessitates the use of certain information collection activities, including completing phytosanitary inspection certificates and maintaining records regarding trap placement and Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) captures. The information we collect serves as the supporting documentation needed to confirm that the tomatoes meet the conditions set forth in the regulations.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of this information collection activity 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 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 0.6960 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Importers, foreign officials, shippers.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 34.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 72.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 2448.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 1704 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 10th day of August 2004.

**Peter Fernandez,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-18787 Filed 8-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 04-030-1]

#### **Mycogen c/o Dow; Availability of Environmental Assessment for Extension of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Genetically Engineered for Insect Resistance and Glufosinate Herbicide Tolerance**

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment for a preliminary decision to extend to one additional corn line our determination that a corn line developed by Mycogen Seeds c/o Dow AgroSciences LLC is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the

introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. We are making this environmental assessment available for public comment.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments we receive on or before September 16, 2004.

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

- Postal mail/commercial delivery:

Please send four copies of your comments (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 04-030-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 04-030-1.

- E-mail: Address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto: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. 04-030-1" 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.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for locating this docket and submitting comments.

**Reading Room:** You may read the extension request, the environmental assessment, and any comments we receive on this notice in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141, 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 that someone is available 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:** Ms. Robyn Rose, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, Suite 5B05, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-0489. To obtain copies of the extension request or the environmental assessment, contact Ms. Terry Hampton at (301) 734-5715; e-mail: [Terry.A.Hampton@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Terry.A.Hampton@aphis.usda.gov). The extension request and the environmental assessment are also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/>