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BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request Food Stamp Program Form FNS-521, Food Coupon Deposit Document

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service is publishing for public comment a summary of a proposed information collection. The proposed collection is an extension of a currently approved collection of the Food Stamp Program for which approval expires on December 31, 2004. The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires that all verified and encoded redemption certificates accepted by insured financial institutions from authorized retail food stores shall be forwarded with the corresponding coupon deposits to the Federal Reserve Bank along with the accompanying Food Coupon Deposit Document (Form FNS-521). Requirements in the Food Stamp Program regulations are the basis for the information collected on Form FNS-521.

The Food and Nutrition Service is rapidly phasing out the use of paper food coupons. Currently, 99.9 percent of all food stamp benefits are issued electronically. Forty-eight States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico have online operating Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) systems. Two States operate offline food stamp EBT systems and issue paper food coupons to recipients who move out of State and have remaining food stamp benefits. Many States have already closed out their coupon inventory completely and more will be doing the same in the upcoming year. Approximately 18,140 Food Coupon Deposit Documents were processed by financial institutions in Fiscal Year 2004 and the number

continues to decline due to 100 percent EBT implementation. Until all of the paper food coupons issued are redeemed, the Food Coupon Deposit Document will remain an essential document to the food stamp redemption process.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 4, 2005, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Andrea Gordon, Chief, Redemption Management Branch, Benefit Redemption Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 404, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be faxed to (703) 305-1863 or e-mailed to: brdhq-web@fns.usda.gov

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 the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrea Gordon, (703) 305-2456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Coupon Deposit Document.

OMB Number: 0584-0314.

Expiration Date: December 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the Federal Agency responsible for the Food Stamp Program. The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, (the Act) requires that FNS provide for the redemption, through financial institutions, of food coupons accepted by retail food stores from program participants. Section 278.5 of the Food Stamp Program regulations governs financial institution and

Federal Reserve participation in the food coupon redemption process.

Form FNS-521, Food Coupon Deposit Document (FCDD) is required to be used by all financial institutions when they deposit food coupons at Federal Reserve Banks. Without the FCDD, no vehicle would exist for financial institutions, Federal Reserve Banks, and the FNS to track deposits of food coupons.

Respondents: Financial institutions and Federal Reserve Banks.

Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: The number of responses is estimated to be 1.814 responses per financial institution or Federal Reserve Bank per year.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0097222 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 176 hours.

Dated: November 30, 2004.

Jerome A. Lindsay,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 04-26680 Filed 12-3-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Child and Adult Care Food Program: Increasing the Duration of Tiering Determinations for Day Care Homes

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA/FNS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) intention to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of the information collection related to the Child and Adult Care Food Program, including adjustments to be made as a result of the final rule, Child and Adult Care Food Program: Increasing the Duration of Tiering Determinations for Day Care Homes.

DATES: To be assured of consideration, comments must be received by February 4, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Mr. Keith Churchill, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department

of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 636, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Comments will also be accepted via E-Mail submission if sent to CNDPROPOSAL@FNS.USDA.GOV.

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 the 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.

All responses to this Notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Mr. Keith Churchill, (703) 305-2590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Child and Adult Care Food Program Regulations.

OMB Number: 0584-0055.

Expiration Date: June 30, 2007.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Rule amends the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations to implement Section 199(b) of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265, which amended Section 17(f)(3)(E)(iii) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(3)(E)(iii) to increase the duration of the tiering status determinations from three to five years for family or group day care homes participating in CACFP. This change, which was effective on June 30, 2004, applies to tiering status determinations for day care homes located in the attendance areas of elementary schools in which at least half of the enrolled children are certified eligible to receive free or reduced price school meals. The change also applies to tiering determinations for day care homes operated by providers whose households meet the eligibility guidelines for free or reduced price school meals. Day care home providers receive higher reimbursement rates (tier 1) for CACFP meals served to children in care in those homes.

Estimate of Burden: This change reduces the number of respondents per year by 768.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,929,699 respondents.

Average Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.25 responses/respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 5,781,262 burden hours.

Dated: November 24, 2004.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 04-26691 Filed 12-3-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-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 that the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) intends to request an extension for a currently approved information collection procedure for entry of specialty sugars into the United States as described in 7 CFR part 2011.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before February 4, 2005 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver comments to Ron Lord, Deputy Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1021, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-1021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Lord, at the address above, or telephone at (202) 720-2916 or e-mail at Ronald.Lord@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Specialty Sugar Import Certificates.

OMB Number: 0551-0025.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2005.

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

Abstract: The quota system established by Presidential Proclamation 4941 of May 5, 1982, prevented the importation of certain sugars used for specialized purposes which originated in countries which did not have quota allocations. Therefore, the regulation at 15 CFR part 2011 (Allocation of Tariff-Rate Quota on Imported Sugars, Syrups and Molasses,