

Notices

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

January 24, 2006.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1724, Electric Engineering Architectural Services and Design Policies.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0118.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, authorization to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) make loans in several States and Territories of the United States for rural electrification and the furnishing and improving of electric energy to persons in rural areas. Title 7 CFR 1724 requires each borrower to select a qualified architect to perform certain architectural services and to use the designated form that provides for these services. The agency has developed standardized contractual forms used by borrowers to contract for services.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected from the forms is on and as needed basis or when the individual borrower undertakes certain projects. The standardization of the forms by RUS has resulted in substantial savings to borrowers by reducing preparation of the documentation and the costly review by the government.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 81.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 161.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: Advance of Loan Funds and Budgetary Control and Related Burdens.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0015.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, as amended, "to make loans in several States and territories of the United States for rural electrification and for the purpose of furnishing and improving electric and telephone service in rural areas and to assist electric borrowers to implement demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems." Borrowers will provide the agency with information that supports the use of the funds as well as identify the type of

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projects for which they will use the funds.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS electric borrowers will submit RUS form 595 and 219. Form 595, Financial Requirement & Expenditure Statement, to request an advance of loan funds remaining for an existing approved loan and to report on the expenditure of previously advanced loan funds. Form 219, Inventory of Work Orders, serves as a connecting line and provides an audit trail that verifies the evidence supporting the propriety of expenditures for construction of retirement projects that supports the advance of funds. The information collected will ensure that loans funds are expended and advanced for RUS approved budget process and amounts. Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determinations of eligibility or improper use of funds.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 700.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 14,820.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-1034 Filed 1-26-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Affirmation of Total Amounts of the Fiscal Year 2006 Tariff-Rate Quotas for Raw Cane Sugar and Certain Imported Sugars, Syrups, and Molasses (Refined Sugar)

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of affirmation.

SUMMARY: This notice affirms determinations announced by the Secretary of Agriculture on August 12, August 19, September 9, and December 2, 2005, that an aggregate quantity of 1,751,329 metric tons raw value of sugar may be entered under the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) provisions of Additional U.S. Note 5(a) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) during fiscal year (FY) 2006. The following TRQ quantities were

established for entry: 1,498,212 metric tons raw value of raw sugar under subheading 1701.11.10 of the HTS, and 253,117 metric tons raw value of certain sugars, syrups, and molasses under subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10, and 2106.90.44 of the HTS.

DATES: Effective Dates:

Raw cane sugar TRQ—October 1, 2005.
Refined sugar TRQ—September 8, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Robert Curtis, Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, AgStop 1021, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250–1021 or telephone (202) 720–2916, fax to (202) 720–0876, or e-mail Robert.Curtis@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Paragraph (a)(i) of Additional U.S. Note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS provides as follows: “The aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, under subheading 1701.11.10, during any fiscal year, shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount (expressed in terms of raw value), not less than 1,117,195 metric tons, as shall be established by the Secretary of Agriculture, (* * * the Secretary”), and the aggregate quantity of sugars, syrups and molasses entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, under subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10 and 2106.90.44, during any fiscal year, shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount (expressed in terms of raw value), not less than 22,000 metric tons, as shall be established by the Secretary. With either the aggregate quantity for raw cane sugar or the aggregate quantity for sugars, syrups and molasses other than raw cane sugar, the Secretary may reserve a quota quantity for the importation of specialty sugars as defined by the United States Trade Representative.” Paragraph (a)(iv) provides as follows: “Sugar entering the United States during a quota period established under this note may be charged to the previous or subsequent quota period with the written approval of the Secretary.”

The provisions of paragraphs (a)(i) and (a)(iv) of Additional U.S. Note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS authorize the Secretary to establish the fiscal year TRQ amounts (expressed in terms of raw value) of raw cane sugar and certain other sugars, syrups, and molasses that may be entered under the subheadings of the HTS subject to the lower tier of duties and to charge to those amounts sugar that is entered prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Allocations

of the TRQ amounts among supplying countries and areas will be made by the United States Trade Representative.

Notice: In accordance with paragraph (a)(i) of Additional U.S. Note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS, the Secretary of Agriculture announced on August 12, August 19, and December 2, 2005, that an aggregate quantity of up to 1,498,212 metric tons, raw value, of raw cane sugar described in subheading 1701.11.10 of the HTS may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during the period from October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006. This amount includes the minimum amount authorized by the HTS (1,117,195 metric tons, raw value) and an additional amount of 387,017 metric tons, raw value, which represents the amount of the domestic cane sugar allotment that the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) estimates will not be filled in FY 2006. CCC is reassigning this deficit quantity to imports, pursuant to section 359e(b)(1)(D) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1359ee(b)(1)(D)).

The TRQ is allocated among supplying countries and areas by the United States Trade Representative. Because of changes occurring over time in the domestic marketing of cane sugar, certain shipping pattern restrictions used in previous years are no longer being imposed.

On August 12, September 9, and December 2, 2005, an aggregate quantity of up to 253,117 metric tons, raw value, was announced, for certain refined sugars, syrups, and molasses described in subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10, and 2106.90.44 of the HTS to be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during the fiscal year 2006 quota period, ending September 30, 2006. Out of this quantity of 253,117 metric tons, 28,656 metric tons was reserved for the importation of specialty sugars.

To allow for the orderly marketing of non-specialty, refined sugars, 117,039 metric tons were allowed to be entered beginning September 8, 2005. This amount was allocated among supplying countries and areas by the United States Trade Representative. In addition, four global-origin tranches of 34,019 metric tons were established opening December 9, 2005, December 29, 2005, January 10, 2006, and January 24, 2006. Beginning with the December 9, 2005 tranche, sugar entering under the global refined TRQ was allowed in containers of 120 metric tons or less.

To allow for the orderly marketing of 28,656 metric tons of specialty sugar, 1,656 metric tons were allowed to enter under a first tranche opening October

26, 2005, followed by three tranches of 9,000 metric tons opening November 9, 2005, March 15, 2006, and June 7, 2006. All specialty sugars were allowed to enter under the first tranche. The second, third and fourth tranches are reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently commercially produced in the United States of reasonably available from domestic sources.

Signed at Washington, DC the 18th day of January, 2006.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. E6–1029 Filed 1–26–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Affirmation of the Total Amount of the Fiscal Year 2006 Tariff-Rate Quota for Sugar and Certain Imported Sugars, Syrups, and Molasses (Refined Sugar) Imported From Mexico

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Affirmation.

SUMMARY: This notice establishes the aggregate quantity of 250,383 metric tons, raw value, of sugar that may enter the United States Customs Territory from Mexico during fiscal year (FY) 2006 under the market access provisions of Chapter 7, Annex 703.2 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) under subheadings 1701.11.10, 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10, and 2106.90.44 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: Effective Date: October 1, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Curtis, Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, AgStop 1021, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250–1021 or telephone (202) 720–2916, fax to (202) 720–0876, or e-mail Robert.Curtis@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Annex 703.2 of the NAFTA provides for trade in sugar and syrup goods based on annual estimates of net production surpluses in the United States and Mexico beginning in 2001, the seventh marketing year of the agreement. To facilitate estimates of supply and demand prior to the beginning of each marketing year, Section A, paragraph 13, of the Annex provides for bilateral consultations before July 1.