

product, biological control organism, noxious weed, means of conveyance, or other article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent a plant pest or noxious weed from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), which administers regulations to implement the PPA. Regulations governing the importation of gypsy moth host material into the United States from Canada are contained in 7 CFR 319.77 through 319.77-5.

These regulations are intended to prevent the introduction of gypsy moth into noninfested areas of the United States by placing certain inspection and documentation requirements on gypsy moth host material (i.e., regulated articles) imported from Canada. These regulated articles are: Trees without roots (e.g., Christmas trees), trees with roots, shrubs with roots and persistent woody stems, logs and pulpwood with bark attached, outdoor household articles, and mobile homes and their associated equipment. Under the regulations, phytosanitary certificates, certificates of origin, or signed homeowner statements will be required for some of these regulated articles, depending on their place of origin in Canada and their destination in the United States. These requirements necessitate the use of information collection activities.

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 0.03632 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Canadian plant health authorities; growers, exporters, shippers of Christmas trees, shrubs, logs, pulpwood, and other articles from gypsy moth-infested Provinces in Canada; private individuals entering the United States with mobile homes or outdoor household articles.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 147.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 15.1700.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 2,230.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 81 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 24th day of July 2008.

**Kevin Shea,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-17467 Filed 7-29-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0069]

#### Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Health Certificates for Export of Live Crustaceans, Finfish, Mollusks, and Related Products

**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 health certificates for the export of live crustaceans, finfish, mollusks, and related products.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 29, 2008.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2008-0069> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0069, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0069.

*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:* Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on health certificates for the export of live crustaceans, finfish, mollusks, and related products, contact Dr. Peter Merrill, Staff Veterinarian, Technical Trade Services Team, NCIE, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-0649; or Dr. Gary Egrie, Staff Veterinarian, Aquaculture, Swine, Equine & Poultry Programs, NCAHP, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 46, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-0695. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2908.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Health Certificates for Export of Live Crustaceans, Finfish, Mollusks, and Related Products.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0278.

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

*Abstract:* The export of agricultural commodities, including animals and animal products, is a major business in the United States and contributes to a favorable balance of trade. To facilitate the export of U.S. animals and animal products, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintains information regarding the import health requirements of other

countries for animals and animal products exported from the United States.

Many countries that import animals or animal products from the United States require a certification that the United States is free of certain diseases. These countries may also require the certification statement to contain additional declarations regarding the U.S. animals or products being exported.

The regulations governing the export of animals and products from the United States are contained in 9 CFR part 91, subchapter D, "Exportation and Importation of Animals (Including Poultry) and Animal Products," and apply to farm-raised aquatic animals and products, as well as other livestock and products. These regulations are authorized by the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*).

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Department of the Interior, as well as APHIS, have legal authorities and responsibilities related to aquatic animal health in the United States. All three agencies have, therefore, entered into a memorandum of understanding delineating their respective responsibilities in the issuance of health certificates for the export of live aquatic animals and animal products.

As a result of these shared responsibilities, three health certificates were developed that bear the logo of all three agencies. The certificates can be used by all three agencies for export health certifications for live crustaceans, finfish, mollusks, and their related products from the United States. In order for the agencies to complete these certificates, exporters must provide the names of the species being exported from the United States, their age and weight, if applicable, whether they are cultured stock or wild stock, their place of origin, their country of destination, and the date and method of transport. The certificates are completed by an accredited inspector (in the case of FWS or NMFS) or accredited veterinarian (in the case of APHIS) and must be signed by either the accredited inspector or accredited veterinarian who inspects the animals or products prior to their departure from the United States, as well as the appropriate Federal official (from either APHIS, FWS, or NMFS) who certifies the health status of the shipment being exported.

By endorsing the health certificates, these officials are certifying that (1) the aquatic animals or products in the

consignment have been produced in a country, zone, or aquaculture establishment that has been subjected either to a health surveillance scheme recommended by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), or one recommended by the American Fisheries Society/Fish Health Section's *Standard Procedures for Aquatic Animal Health Inspections* (also known as the "Blue Book"); and (2) the country, zone, or aquaculture establishment is officially recognized as being free from all of the pathogens causing the diseases identified on the specific health certificate being endorsed. (Each of the three health certificates lists a variety of diseases, depending on whether the certificate is for crustaceans, finfish, or mollusks.)

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 this 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 0.5 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Accredited inspectors or accredited veterinarians who complete the health certificates and producers who provide information for the health certificates to the accredited inspectors or accredited veterinarians.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 40.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 5.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 200.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 100 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 24th day of July 2008.

**Kevin Shea,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-17474 Filed 7-29-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0065]

#### Notice of Decision To Issue Permits for the Importation of Dragon Fruit From Vietnam Into the Continental United States

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public of our decision to begin issuing permits for the importation into the continental United States of dragon fruit from Vietnam. Based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we believe that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of dragon fruit from Vietnam.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* July 30, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Alex Belano, Import Specialist, Commodity Import Analysis and Operation Staff, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-5333.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under the regulations in "Subpart-Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56 through 319.56-47, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.