

20737; (301) 734-5290. 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:* Foreign Quarantine Notices.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0049.

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

*Abstract:* As authorized by the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture may prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant 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). Regulations governing the importation of plants, fruits, vegetables, roots, bulbs, seeds, unmanufactured wood articles, and other plant products are contained in 7 CFR part 319, "Foreign Quarantine Notices."

In administering the regulations, APHIS collects information from persons both within and outside the United States who are involved in growing, packing, handling, transporting, and importing articles regulated under part 319.

For example, many plants or plant products may not be imported until the person wishing to import them receives a permit from us. The person wishing to import these items must first fill out a permit application. We consider the permit application process extremely important, since the information on the application enables us to determine whether the items for import represent a potential pest threat to U.S. agriculture.

Under certain circumstances, we also require importers to supply us with other types of information. We require, for example, that containers used to import various plants or plant products be marked in a certain way so that our inspectors can accurately identify them and match them to their accompanying documentation.

We require that certain shipments be accompanied by a phytosanitary inspection certificate, which is a document completed by plant health officials in the originating country that attests to the condition of the shipment with respect to plant pests at the time

it was inspected prior to its export to the United States. We use this important information as a guide in determining the intensity of the inspection we must conduct when the shipment arrives in the United States.

This and other information we collect is vital to helping us ensure that imported plants and plant products do not harbor plant pests or noxious weeds that, if introduced into the United States, could cause millions of dollars in damage to U.S. agriculture.

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 0.3167168 hours per response.

*Respondents:* U.S. importers of fruits and vegetables, foreign plant protection authorities, individuals involved in growing, packing, handling, transporting, and importing plants and plant products.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 92,420.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 3.259987.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 301,288.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 95,423 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 17th day of September 2008.

**Kevin Shea,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-22288 Filed 9-22-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0104]

**Notice of Request for Revision and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Animal Welfare**

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

**ACTION:** Revision and 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 a revision and extension of approval of an information collection associated with Animal Welfare Act regulations for the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by dealers, research facilities, exhibitors, carriers, and intermediate handlers.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before November 24, 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-2008-0104> 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-2008-0104, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0104.

*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 the Animal Welfare Act regulations, contact Dr. Barbara Kohn, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-7833. 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:* Animal Welfare.

*OMB Number:* 0579-0093.

*Type of Request:* Revision and extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* The regulations in 9 CFR parts 1 through 3 were promulgated under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*) to ensure the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of animals covered under the Act. The Act and regulations are enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The regulations in 9 CFR part 3, subparts A, D, and E, cover dogs and cats, nonhuman primates, and marine mammals, respectively. Subparts B and C cover rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters. Subpart F of 9 CFR part 3 covers warmblooded animals other than dogs, cats, nonhuman primates, marine mammals, rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters. Regulated facilities are required to keep certain records and provide specific information regarding health and feeding, housing, space, transportation, exercise, perimeter fencing, marine mammal interactive programs, and programs of veterinary care. We review this information to evaluate program compliance.

This notice includes information collection requirements currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control numbers 0579-0092, "Animal Welfare; Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, and Rabbits" (transportation in commerce), and 0579-0093, "Animal Welfare." These information collections do not mandate the use of any official Government form. After OMB approves and combines the burden for both collections under a single collection (0579-0093), the Department will retire number 0579-0092.

We are asking 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 0.302547 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Dealers, exhibitors, research facilities, carriers, and intermediate handlers.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 11,687.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 13.477881.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 157,516.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 47,656 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 17th day of September 2008.

**Kevin Shea,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0106]

#### A Business Plan To Advance Animal Disease Traceability; Final Version

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that we are making available a final version of our Business Plan to Advance Animal Disease Traceability. Based on comments that we received on our draft Business Plan, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we have amended the plan in order to provide greater clarity regarding the points of integration between the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and existing State and Federal animal health programs and brand programs. We have also added more specificity regarding traceability strategies for several animal industries, an explanation of how the NAIS can help producers meet country of origin labeling requirements, and a detailed discussion of future plans regarding radio frequency identification of animals destined for import or export. We have also updated the plan to reflect the current budget for the NAIS, to adjust the benchmarks and target dates for implementation of animal traceability, and to make other, nonsubstantive changes. The final Business Plan retains the seven core strategies for harmonizing the NAIS with existing programs and methods that we outlined in our draft plan.

**ADDRESSES:** The Business Plan is available on the Internet at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/>. The document may also be viewed 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt, Coordinator, National Animal Identification System, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-5571.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

As part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard animal health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiated implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in 2004. The NAIS is a cooperative State-Federal-industry program administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The purpose of the NAIS is to provide a streamlined information system that