

# Notices

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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

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2016–0096]

#### Notice of Request for Renewal and Revision of an Information Collection; Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter

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

**ACTION:** Renewal and revision 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 renewal and revision of an information collection associated with the regulations for the commercial transportation of equines for slaughter.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before February 27, 2017.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0096>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2016–0096, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2016-0096> or

in our reading room, which 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) 799–7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the regulations for the commercial transportation of equines for slaughter, contact Dr. Rory Carolan, National Equine Programs, Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Services, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 46, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851–3558. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851–2483.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579–0160.

*Type of Request:* Renewal and revision of an information collection.

*Abstract:* Under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (“the Farm Bill”), Congress gave responsibility to the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the commercial transportation within the United States of equines for slaughter. Sections 901–905 of the Farm Bill (7 U.S.C. 1901 note) authorized the Secretary to issue guidelines for the regulation of commercial transportation of equines for slaughter by persons regularly engaged in that activity within the United States. As a result of that authority, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established regulations in 9 CFR part 88, “Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter.”

The minimum standards for transportation cover, among other things, the food, water, and rest provided to such equines. The regulations also require the owner/shipper of the equines to take certain actions in loading and transporting the equines and to certify that the commercial transportation meets certain requirements. In addition, the regulations prohibit the commercial transportation for slaughter of equines considered to be unfit for travel, the use of electric prods on such animals in commercial transportation to slaughter, and the use of double-deck trailers for commercial transportation of equines for slaughter.

These regulations require several information collection activities, including a USDA–APHIS Owner/

Shipper Certificate Fitness to Travel for Slaughter Form/Continuation Sheet, application of backtags, the collection of business information from any individual or other entity found to be transporting horses for slaughter, and recordkeeping.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for 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 0.29 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Owners and shippers of equines for slaughter, drivers of the transport vehicles, and foreign officials.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 302.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 40.7.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 12,300.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 3,508 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 20th day of December 2016.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2016-31416 Filed 12-27-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket Number FSIS-2016-0050]

RIN 0583-AD65

#### 2017 Rate Changes for the Basetime, Overtime, Holiday, and Laboratory Services Rates

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the 2017 rates it will charge meat and poultry establishments, egg products plants, and importers and exporters for providing voluntary, overtime, and holiday inspection and identification, certification, and laboratory services. The 2017 basetime, overtime, holiday, and laboratory services rates will be applied on February 5, 2017.

**DATES:** FSIS will charge the rates announced in this notice beginning February 5, 2017.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information contact Michael Toner, Director, Budget Division, Office of Management, FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2159, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700; Telephone: (202) 690-8398, Fax: (202) 690-4155.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On April 12, 2011, FSIS published a final rule amending its regulations to establish formulas for calculating the rates it charges meat and poultry establishments, egg products plants, and importers and exporters for providing voluntary, overtime, and holiday inspection and identification, certification, and laboratory services (76 FR 20220).

In the final rule, FSIS stated that it would use the formulas to calculate the annual rates, publish the rates in **Federal Register** notices prior to the start of each calendar year. This notice provides the 2017 rates, which will be applied starting on February 5, 2017.

#### 2017 Rates and Calculations

The following table lists the 2017 Rates per hour, per employee, by type of service:

Service	2017 Rate (estimates rounded to reflect billable quarters)
Basetime .....	\$55.84
Overtime .....	70.28
Holiday .....	84.72
Laboratory ....	71.72

The regulations state that FSIS will calculate the rates using formulas that include the Office of Field Operations (OFO) inspection program personnel's previous fiscal year's regular direct pay and regular hours (9 CFR 391.2, 391.3, 391.4, 590.126, 590.128, 592.510, 592.520, and 592.530). In 2013, an Agency reorganization eliminated the OIA program office and transferred all of its inspection program personnel to OFO. Therefore, inspection program personnel's pay and hours are identified in the calculations as "OFO inspection program personnel's" pay and hours.

FSIS determined the 2017 rates using the following calculations:

**Basetime Rate** = The quotient of dividing the Office of Field Operations (OFO) inspection program personnel's previous fiscal year's regular direct pay by the previous fiscal year's regular hours, plus the quotient multiplied by the calendar year's percentage of cost of living increase, plus the benefits rate, plus the travel and operating rate, plus the overhead rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate.

The calculation for the 2017 basetime rate per hour per program employee is:

[FY 2016 OFO Regular Direct Pay divided by the previous fiscal year's Regular Hours (\$474,751,934/16,702,093)] = \$28.42 + (\$28.42 \* 1.60% (calendar year 2017 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$28.87 + \$9.81 (benefits rate) + \$0.97 (travel and operating rate) + \$16.19 (overhead rate) + \$0.02 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$55.86 rounded down to 55.84 so that it is divisible by 4.

**Overtime Rate** = The quotient of dividing the Office of Field Operations (OFO) inspection program personnel's previous fiscal year's regular direct pay by the previous fiscal year's regular hours, plus that quotient multiplied by the calendar year's percentage of cost of living increase, multiplied by 1.5 (for overtime), plus the benefits rate, plus the travel and operating rate, plus the overhead rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate.

The calculation for the 2017 overtime rate per hour per program employee is:

[FY 2016 OFO Regular Direct Pay divided by previous fiscal year's Regular

Hours (\$474,751,934/16,702,093)] = \$28.42 + (\$28.42 \* 1.60% (calendar year 2017 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$28.87 \* 1.5 = \$43.31 + \$9.81 (benefits rate) + \$0.97 (travel and operating rate) + \$16.19 (overhead rate) + \$0.02 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$70.30, rounded down to \$70.28 so that it is divisible by 4.

**Holiday Rate** = The quotient of dividing the Office of Field Operations (OFO) inspection program personnel's previous fiscal year's regular direct pay by the previous fiscal year's regular hours, plus that quotient multiplied by the calendar year's percentage of cost of living increase, multiplied by 2 (for holiday pay), plus the benefits rate, plus the travel and operating rate, plus the overhead rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate.

The calculation for the 2017 holiday rate per hour per program employee calculation is:

[FY 2016 OFO Regular Direct Pay divided by Regular Hours (\$474,751,934/16,702,093)] = \$28.42 + (\$28.42 \* 1.60% (calendar year 2017 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$28.87 \* 2 = \$57.74 + \$9.81 (benefits rate) + \$0.97 (travel and operating rate) + \$16.19 (overhead rate) + \$0.02 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$84.73, rounded down to \$84.72 so that it is divisible by 4.

**Laboratory Services Rate** = The quotient of dividing the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) previous fiscal year's regular direct pay by the OPHS previous fiscal year's regular hours, plus the quotient multiplied by the calendar year's percentage cost of living increase, plus the benefits rate, plus the travel and operating rate, plus the overhead rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate.

The calculation for the 2017 laboratory services rate per hour per program employee is:

[FY 2016 OPHS Regular Direct Pay/OPHS Regular hours (\$24,143,108/548,338)] = \$44.03 + (\$44.03 \* 1.60% (calendar year 2017 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$44.73 + \$9.81 (benefits rate) + \$0.97 (travel and operating rate) + \$16.19 (overhead rate) + \$0.02 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$71.72.

#### Calculations for the Benefits, Travel and Operating, Overhead, and Allowance for Bad Debt Rates

These rates are components of the basetime, overtime, holiday, and laboratory services rates formulas.

**Benefits Rate:** The quotient of dividing the previous fiscal year's direct benefits costs by the previous fiscal year's total hours (regular, overtime, and holiday), plus that quotient multiplied by the calendar year's percentage cost of living increase. Some examples of direct