

crops, although in some cases inquiries may target the same crop and could result in the target population being contacted more than once annually. This is a function of more than one EPA action out for public comment in a given year being registered for use on the same crop. EPA actions are posted to the docket in quarterly batches which allows OPMP to limit contacting individual respondents to four or fewer times annually, as OPMP will be able to combine questions across multiple crops onto one survey. For this new collection request, 1,894 respondents could be contacted four times annually, or 7,576 responses per year.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: Respondents will be contacted no more than four times annually, *i.e.*, on a quarterly basis.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,166 burden hours annually, or 9,498 hours over the 3-year life of the approved collection. [As stated in 13c of the Form OMB 83–1.]

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Robert Johansson,
Chief Economist.

[FR Doc. 2020–06466 Filed 3–26–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–GL–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2017–0103]

Import Requirements for the Importation of Fresh Fragrant Pears From China Into the United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to revise the import requirements for the importation of fresh fragrant pears from China into the United States and to authorize importation from an additional area of production. Based on the findings of the pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public to review and comment through a previous notice, we have concluded 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 fresh fragrant pears fruit from this additional production area.

DATES: The articles covered by this notice may be authorized for importation under the revised conditions after March 27, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Marc Phillips, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 851–2114.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the regulations in “Subpart L—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) 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.

Section 319.56–4 of the regulations contains a notice-based process based on established performance standards for authorizing the importation of fruits and vegetables. Paragraph (c) of that section provides that the name and origin of all fruits and vegetables authorized importation into the United States, as well as the requirements for their importation, are listed on the internet in APHIS’ Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements database, or FAVIR (<https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/manual>). It also provides that, if the Administrator of APHIS determines that any of the phytosanitary measures required for the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable are no longer necessary to reasonably mitigate the plant pest risk posed by the fruit or vegetable, APHIS will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** making its pest risk analysis and determination available for public comment.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal**

¹To view the notice, pest list, RMD, economic effects assessment, and the comments that we received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2017-0103>.

Register on April 17, 2019 (84 FR 15994–15995, Docket No. APHIS–2017–0103) announcing the availability, for review and comment, of a pest list and risk management document (RMD) prepared relative to revising the conditions for the importation of fresh fragrant pears (*Pyrus x sinkiangensis* Yu) from China into the United States. The notice proposed both to revise the conditions for the importation of fragrant pears from an existing authorized area of production in China, the Korla region of Xinjiang Province, and to authorize importation of fragrant pears from another area of production, the Akesu region of Xinjiang Province.

We solicited comments on the pest list and RMD for 60 days ending on June 17, 2019. We received two comments by that date. They were both from an organization representing domestic pear producers within the United States. The comments that we received are discussed below by topic.

Comments on the Pest List

The pest list identified two pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway on fragrant pears from the Korla or Akesu regions of China, *Eulecanium circumfluum*, a soft scale, and *Euzophera pyriella*, the pyralid moth.

A commenter pointed out that *Schizaphis piricola*, an aphid, *Eulecanium giganteum* and *Rhodococcus turanicus*, both soft scales, and *Janus piri* and *Janus pirioidorus*, both sawflies, were listed on the pest list as quarantine pests, but were not considered likely to follow the pathway on fragrant pears from China imported into the United States on the grounds that they attack stems, rather than fruit. The commenter stated that pears are often shipped with stems attached, and the pests should therefore have been considered to follow the pathway. The commenter also stated that the pests should have been mitigated for in the RMD by requiring that the national plant protection organization examine places of production, packinghouses, and packed fruit for them.

By “stems,” the pest list meant in a broad sense the above-ground, woody parts of the pear tree other than the trunk. There is evidence that *S. piricola*, *E. giganteum*, *R. turanicus*, *J. piri*, and *J. pirioidorus* are all quarantine pests of branches, twigs, and cuttings of fragrant pears, but no evidence that they are associated with commercially produced fruit, with or without a portion of the stem attached.

The commenter stated that *Bactrocera dorsalis*, the Oriental fruit fly (OFF), is a quarantine pest that is known to exist

in the Akesu and Korla regions and attacks pears. The commenter noted that OFF was not even included in the pest list and stated that it not only should have been included, but should have been considered a quarantine pest likely to follow the pathway on fragrant pears from China imported into the United States. The commenter also stated that OFF should have been mitigated for in the RMD by requiring bagging of fruit from places of production in which OFF is known to occur and fruit cutting during packinghouse procedures.

We acknowledge that OFF does exist in China and can attack several species of pears. However, we found no evidence that fragrant pears are a host of OFF.

The commenter pointed out that *Stemphylium pyrinum* was listed on the pest list as a quarantine pest but was not considered likely to follow the pathway on fragrant pears from China imported into the United States on the grounds that it attacks leaves, rather than fruit. The commenter stated that it can cause disease in fruit, however, and therefore should have been considered likely to follow the pathway on fragrant pears from China imported into the United States, and mitigated for in the RMD.

We found no evidence that *S. pyrinum* is associated with fragrant pear fruit; evidence indicated it solely attacks fragrant pear leaves. Since the commenter did not provide a citation in support of the assertion that *S. pyrinum* attacks fragrant pear fruit, we are not able to evaluate the commenter's claim.

The commenter stated that *Stemphylium lycopersici* and *Stemphylium mali* should have been added to the pest list as quarantine pests and should have been considered likely to follow the pathway on fragrant pears from China imported into the United States, and mitigated for in the RMD.

S. lycopersici is a synonym for *S. pyrinum*. As noted above, we found no evidence that *S. pyrinum* is associated with fragrant pear fruit. We also found no evidence that fragrant pears are a host of *S. mali*.

The commenter pointed out that *Amphitetranychus viennensis* and *Eotetranychus pruni*, both spider mites, were listed on the pest list as quarantine pests but were not considered likely to follow the pathway of fragrant pears from China imported into the United States on the grounds that they attack leaves, rather than fruit. The commenter stated that, while the mites feed on foliage, they can collect on fruit, particularly in calices, during the harvest season, and may therefore follow the pathway on harvested fruit. The commenter provided a photograph

documenting this behavior on an apple from Washington State, as well as a citation to an article suggesting that the mites follow the pathway on fruit.²

We are aware of the behavior the commenter referred to and it is documented to occur on certain harvested fruit, including apples. However, we have no evidence that the behavior is ubiquitous on all hosts, nor does the cited article suggest this is the case. We found no evidence that spider mites collect on fragrant pear fruit prior to harvest, and no primary evidence that the mites feed on fragrant pears.

The commenter pointed out that while the pest list listed *Euzophera pyriella* as a quarantine pest that could follow the pathway of fragrant pears from China, it also listed *E. pyriella* as being present in the continental United States and not under official control. The commenter stated that they could find no evidence that *E. pyriella* exists in the United States and asked if the pest list was in error regarding its distribution.

The pest list was in error on this matter and should have stated that *E. pyriella* is not known to occur in the United States.

The commenter stated that *Cacopsylla chinensis*, a psyllid, should have been listed in the pest list as a quarantine pest that could follow the pathway of fragrant pears from China imported into the United States.

Based on our review of the relevant literature and other sources used to compile the pest list, we found no evidence that *C. chinensis* attacks fragrant pear fruit.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c)(4)(ii) of the regulations, we are announcing our decision to revise the requirements for the importation of fragrant pears from China into the United States. The revised conditions are as follows:

- The fragrant pears must be grown in the Akesu or Korla region at a production site that is registered with the NPPO of China.

- Registered production sites must have in place a production site control program approved by APHIS and the NPPO of China.

- The NPPO of China is responsible for ensuring that registered production sites are subject to field sanitation and that growers are aware of quarantine pests and control measures to be taken for their control. Such measures must be described in detail in an operational

workplan approved by the NPPO of China and APHIS.

- Only intact fruits may be harvested for export and the harvested fruit must be safeguarded against quarantine pests from the production site until the consignment is shipped.

- Fragrant pears must be packed in a packinghouse registered with the NPPO of China.

- The packinghouses must have a tracking system in place that will allow for traceback of the fruit to individual production sites.

- Registered packinghouses are prohibited from packing fragrant pears destined for other countries while packing fruit destined for the United States.

- Packinghouse procedures must be in accordance with the operational workplan.

- Each shipping box must be marked with the identity of the packinghouse and grower.

- Each consignment of fragrant pears must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the NPPO of China attesting to place of origin and stating that all APHIS phytosanitary requirements have been met and that the consignment was inspected and found free of quarantine pests.

- Fragrant pears may be imported as commercial consignments only.

- Fragrant pears are subject to inspection at the port of entry into the United States.

- Fragrant pears must be imported under permit.

These revised conditions will be listed in the Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements database (available at <https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/manual>). In addition to these specific measures, fresh fragrant pear fruit from China will be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56–3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the reporting and recordkeeping requirements included in this notice are covered under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 0579–0049.

E-Government Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the E-Government Act to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies, to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government

² CABI. 2019. *Amphitetranychus viennensis* (hawthorn (spider) mite). Invasive Species Compendium. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/53368>.

information and services, and for other purposes. For information pertinent to E-Government Act compliance related to this notice, please contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701-7772, and 7781-7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of March 2020.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2020-06374 Filed 3-26-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RUS-20-Telecom-0007]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; comment requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the above-named agency to request Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of RUS Specification for Quality Control and Inspection of Timber Products.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 26, 2020 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arlette Mussington, Rural Development Innovation Center—Regulations Management Division, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4227, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-2825. Email arlette.mussington@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice

identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments

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.

Comments may be sent by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the Search box, enter the Docket No RUS-20-Telecom-0007 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "User Tips" link.

Title: RUS Specification for Quality Control and Inspection of Timber Products.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0076.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2020.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: RUS Bulletin 1728H-702 and 7 CFR 1728.202 describe the responsibilities and procedures pertaining to the quality control by producers and pertaining to inspection of timber products produced in accordance with RUS specifications. In order to ensure the security of loan funds, adequate quality control of timber products is vital to loan security on electric power systems where hundreds of thousands of wood poles and cross-arms are used. Since RUS and its borrowers do not have the expertise or manpower to quickly determine imperfections in the wood products or their preservatives treatments, they must obtain service of an inspection agency to ensure that the specifications for wood poles and cross-arms are being met. Copies of test reports on various preservatives must accompany each

load of poles treated at the same time in a pressure cylinder (charge) as required by 7 CFR 1728.202(i). RUS feels the importance of safety concerns are enough to justify requiring test reports so that the purchaser, inspectors, and RUS will be able to spot check the general accuracy and reliability of the tests.

Estimate of Burden: This collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 800.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20,333 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Arlette Mussington, Innovation Center—Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720-2825. Email: arlette.mussington@usda.gov.

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.

Chad Rupe,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2020-06393 Filed 3-26-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RUS-20-ELECTRIC-0008]

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on the following information collection extension for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 26, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lauren Cusick, Management Analysis, Regulations Management Division, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, STOP 1522, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-1414 or email Lauren.Cusick@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB)