The ground spot is not scorable as serious damage.

- AMS proposes to remove all metric measurements from the standards. The U.S. watermelon industry does not use metrics and finds them a distraction in the standards.

The proposed revisions will ensure the standards align with current marketing trends.

A 60-day period is provided for interested persons to submit comments on the proposed grade standards. Copies of the proposed revised U.S. Standards for Grades of Watermelons are available at http://www.regulations.gov. After the 60-day comment period, AMS will proceed in accordance with 7 CFR 36.3(a)(1–3).


Bruce Summers, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–05044 Filed 3–10–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 8, 2021.

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 are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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 regarding this information collection received by April 12, 2021 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. 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.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Foot-and-Mouth Disease; Prohibition on Importation of Farm Equipment.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0195.

Summary of Collection: The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) of 2002 is the primary Federal law governing the protection of animal health. (The AHPA is contained in Title X, Subtitle E, Sections 10401–18 of Public Law 107–171, May 13, 2002, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and can be found at 7 U.S.C. 8301 et. seq.) It gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to detect, control, or eradicate pests or diseases of livestock or poultry. The Secretary may also prohibit or restrict import or export of any animal or related material if necessary, to prevent the spread of any livestock or poultry pest or disease.

As a result of the occurrences of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in different parts of the world, under 9 CFR 94.1(c) APHIS prohibits the importation of all used farm equipment into the United States from regions in which FMD exists, unless the exporter provides certification signed by an authorized official of the national animal health service of the exporting region stating that the equipment, after its last use and prior to export, has been steam-cleaned free of all exposed dirt and particulate material in the exporting region. APHIS inspects all such farm equipment to ensure it complies with the regulations. Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information through the use of a certification statement completed by the farm equipment exporter and signed by an authorized official of the national animal health service of the region of origin, stating that the steam-cleaning of the equipment was done prior to export to the United States. This is necessary to help prevent the introduction of FMD into the United States. If the information were not collected APHIS would be not be able to determine risk associated with importing farm equipment and would be forced to stop the importation of used farm equipment from FMD affected regions. This could financially impact exporters and importers of the equipment.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 79.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,159.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Self Certification Medical Statement.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0196.

Summary of Collection: The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for ensuring consumers that food and farm products are moved from producer to consumer in the most efficient, dependable, economical, and equitable system possible. Each year, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) agency hires individuals for commodity grading and inspection positions to ensure this process is efficient and effective. These positions often involve arduous conditions and require direct contact with meat, dairy, fresh or processed fruits and vegetables, and poultry intended for human consumption; and cotton and tobacco products intended for consumer use. 5 CFR part 339 authorizes an agency to request medical information from an applicant that may assist management with employment decisions concerning covered positions that have specific medical or physical fitness requirements. APHIS will collect the applicant’s medical information using MRP Form 5 (Self-Certification Medical Statement).

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected from prospective employees assists MRP officials, administrative personnel, and servicing Human Resources Offices in determining an applicant’s physical fitness and suitability for employment in positions with approved medical standards and physical requirements. If the information was not collected, APHIS would not be able to accurately determine the applicant’s fitness to safely perform the duties of the covered positions.

Description of Respondents: Individuals.

Number of Respondents: 1,826.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 306.

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

Title: Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter.
On occasion, Recordkeeping, and other for profit, Individuals or Tribal Government; Federal Government; Individuals or other for profit, State, Local, and Tribal Government; Federal Government (Foreign).

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information using VS Form 4–9, Request for Reagents or Supplies; VS Form 4–10, NVSL Customer Contact Update; and VS Form 4–11, NVSL Application for Laboratory Training and; VS Form 12, NVSL Laboratories Kit and Instrument Order form. These forms are used to safeguard the U.S. animal population from pests and diseases. If the information was collected less frequently or not collected, APHIS would be unable to process reagent orders or provide requested training.

Description of Respondents: Foreign Federal Government; Individuals or households; Businesses; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 1,115.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,223.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Standardizing Phytosanitary Treatment Regulations: Approval of Cold Treatment and Irradiation Facilities; Cold Treatment Schedules; Establishment of Fumigation and Cold Treatment Compliance Agree.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0450.

Summary of Collection: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for preventing plant diseases or insect pests from entering the United States, preventing the spread of pests and noxious weeds not widely distributed into the United States, and eradicating those imported pests when eradication is feasible. The Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701—et seq.) authorizes the Department to carry out this mission. Under the Plant Protection Act, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is authorized, among other things, to regulate the importation of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States. The phytosanitary treatment regulations established generic criteria that allows for the approval of new cold treatment and irradiation facilities; cold treatment schedules; and the establishment of fumigation and cold treatment compliance agreements.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information using PPQ form 519, Compliance Agreements, PPQ form 530, Limited Permit and other collection activities to provide generic criteria for new cold treatment and irradiation facilities, cold treatment schedules, and the establishment of fumigation and cold treatment compliance agreements.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for profit, State, Local, and Tribal Government; Federal Government (Foreign).

Number of Respondents: 92.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 196.

Ruth Brown,
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[PR Doc. 2021–05055 Filed 3–10–21; 8:45 am]