Agricultural Marketing Service

[Document Number AMS–TM–21–0034]

Supply Chains for the Production of Agricultural Commodities and Food Products

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; 30-day extension for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is providing an additional 30 days for public comments on the Notice on Supply Chains for the Production of Agricultural Commodities and Food Products published on April 21, 2021. During the first two weeks of the comment period, AMS received requests from stakeholders and organizations for additional time to provide thoughtful and thorough feedback to this request. Requests were received from representatives of critical supply chain activities whose comments would be of great value to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in preparing the report required by the Executive Order on “America’s Supply Chains”.

DATES: Comments on the notice published April 21, 2021, must be received by June 21, 2021.

ADDRESSES: All written comments in response to this notice should be posted online at www.regulations.gov. Comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided. All comments should reference the docket number AMS–TM–21–0034, the date of submission, and the page number of this issue of the Federal Register. Comments may also be sent to Dr. Melissa R. Bailey, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Room 2055–S, STOP 0201, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–0201. Comments will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours or via the internet at www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Melissa R. Bailey, Agricultural Marketing Service, at (202) 205–9356; or by email at melissa.bailey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On February 24, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14017, “America’s Supply Chains” (86 FR 11849) (E.O. 14017). E.O. 14017 focuses on the need for resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains to ensure U.S. economic prosperity and national security. Such supply chains are needed to address conditions that can reduce critical manufacturing capacity and the availability and integrity of critical goods, products, and services. In relevant part, E.O. 14017 directs that, within one year, the Secretary shall submit a report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (APNSA) and the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy (APEP), on the supply chains for the production of agricultural commodities and food products. This notice requests comments and information from the public to assist USDA in preparing the report required by E.O. 14017. Further, USDA will use public comments received through this notice to inform our thinking regarding how available authorities and funding related to food supply chain resilience can help to increase durability and resilience within the U.S. food supply. We are particularly interested in comments addressing local and regional food systems, creating new market opportunities (including for value-added agriculture and value-added products), facilitating fair and competitive markets (including traceability and supply chain transparency), advancing efforts to transform the food system, meeting the needs of the agricultural workforce, supporting and promoting consumers’ nutrition security, particularly for low-income populations, and supporting the needs of socially disadvantaged and small to mid-sized producers and processors.

Extension of Comment Period Deadline

This document notifies the public that AMS is extending the comment period on the Notice on Supply Chains for the Production of Agricultural Commodities and Food Products, 86 FR 20652 (Apr. 21, 2021) from May 21, 2021 to June 21, 2021. Comments previously submitted during the initial 30-day comment period [April 21, 2021–May 21, 2021] need not be resubmitted, as these comments are already incorporated into the public record.

Erin Morris,
Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–10351 Filed 5–14–21; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection: Qualified Products Lists for Fire Chemicals for Wildland Fire Management

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the renewal of a currently approved information collection, Qualified Products Lists for Fire Chemicals for Wildland Fire Management.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before July 16, 2021 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to David Haston, Branch Chief, Equipment and Chemicals, US Forest Service, National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 208–387–5398 or by email to: david.haston@usda.gov. Comments submitted in response to this notice may be made available to the public through relevant websites and upon request. For this reason, please do not include in your comments information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal information or proprietary

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information. If you send an email comment, your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the internet. Please note that responses to this public comment request containing any routine notice about the confidentiality of the communication will be treated as public comments that may be made available to the public notwithstanding the inclusion of the routine notice.

The public may inspect the draft supporting statement and/or comments received at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), Jack Wilson Building, in Boise, Idaho during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 208–387–5512 to facilitate entry to the building. The public may request an electronic copy of the draft supporting statement and/or any comments received be sent via return email. Requests should be emailed to david.haston@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Shirley Zylstra, National Technology and Development Program, (NTDP) at (406) 329–4859 or David Haston, National Interagency Fire Center at (208) 387–5642. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1(800) 877–8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Title: Qualified Products Lists for Fire Chemicals for Wildland Fire Management.
OMB Number: 0596–0182.
Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2021.
Type of Request: Extension with no Revision of a currently approved information collection.
Abstract: The Forest Service and cooperating wildland firefighting agencies need adequate types and quantities of qualified fire chemical products available to accomplish fire management activities as safely and effectively as possible. To accomplish this objective, the Agency evaluates and pre-approves commercial wildland firefighting chemicals. The Agency is required to submit the formulations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Fisheries during the evaluation process. All products must meet the requirements of specifications identified and maintained by the Wildland Fire Chemical Systems (WFCS) staff at the National Technology & Development Program (Missoula). After a product evaluation has been completed successfully, the product is added to the Qualified Products List (QPL) for the appropriate product type. All Federal procurements of wildland fire chemicals are made from these lists.

To initiate an evaluation, product manufacturers (or authorized suppliers) enter into an agreement with the Forest Service and pay all costs associated with the submission and evaluation of the product. Once the agreement is in place and funds are deposited to cover the associated costs, the manufacturer submits the following information to WFCS:
1. List of the specific ingredients and quantity used to prepare the product;
2. Identification of a specific company as the source of supply for each ingredient;
3. Copies of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the product and for each ingredient used to prepare the product (from the company that supplies that chemical); and
4. Specific mixing requirements and performance information.

Review of the submitted information assures that the product does not contain ingredients meeting the criteria for Chemicals of Concern. Chemicals of Concern are defined as chemicals appearing on one or more of the following lists:
• Agency list of unacceptable ingredients;
• National Toxicology Program (NTP) Annual Report on Carcinogens;
• International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs for Potential Carcinogen;
• Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) List of Extremely Hazardous Substances and Their Threshold Planning Quantities;
• Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Acutely Hazardous and Toxic Wastes; and
• Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (EPCRA), Toxic Release Inventory.

A risk assessment, performed by the manufacturer, is required. The risk assessment, performed by a third party selected by the Agency, assesses the products and levels of ingredients found in typical applications relative to human and environmental impact.

Each product submitted is tested to determine the mammalian and aquatic toxicity of the product and must meet specific levels of performance to minimize potential risk during firefighting operations. Additional tests are performed to determine the effectiveness of the product to reduce spread rate and intensity of the fire by application directly on or near the fire. A number of product characteristics are measured over the operational performance range of the product to ensure that the product meets the needs of the firefighters in the field.

The collection of this information for each product submission is necessary due to the length of time needed to test the product (16 to 18 months) and the need to ensure that products do not pose a hazard for laboratory personnel during the evaluation prior to purchase and use. This information collection and the product evaluation must be conducted on an ongoing basis to ensure the Agency can solicit and award contracts in a timely manner to provide firefighters with safe and effective wildland fire chemical products.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 4.5 hours.
Type of Respondents: Businesses (manufacturers and suppliers) of fire chemicals for wildland fire management.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 5.
Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.
Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 67.5 hours.

Comment Is Invited
Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the Agency’s estimate of the burden of the 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request toward Office of Management and Budget approval.

Patricia A. Grantham,
Acting Director, Fire and Aviation Management.

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