

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2024, from 1–2:30 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will take place via Video Teleconference only. Documents related to the 28th Session of the CCFO will be accessible via the internet at the following address: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/jp/?meeting=CCFO&session=28>.

The U.S. Delegate to the 28th Session of the CCFO invites interested U.S. parties to submit their comments electronically to the following email address: Girdhari.sharma@fda.hhs.gov or doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov.

Registration: Attendees may register to attend the public meeting here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOCtqzsjHRhu5Zl-hKwftuzVhRNchlo>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For further information about the 28th Session of the CCFO, contact Dr. Girdhari Sharma of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Girdhari.sharma@fda.hhs.gov. For additional information about the public meeting, contact the U.S. Codex Office by email at: uscodex@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) are:

(a) To elaborate worldwide standards for fats and oils of animal, vegetable and marine origin including margarine and olive oil.

The CCFO is hosted by Malaysia. The United States attends the CCFO as a member country of Codex.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items from the forthcoming Agenda for the 28th Session of the CCFO will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies

- Consideration of the recommendations of the Reports of the 90th and 91st Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- Proposed draft Amendment/revision to the *Standard for Named Vegetable Oils* (CXS 210–1999)
 - Inclusion of avocado oil
 - Inclusion of camellia seed oil
 - Inclusion of sacha inchi oil
 - Inclusion of high oleic acid soya bean oil
- Proposed draft revision to the *Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils* (CXS 33–1981): Revision of Sections 3, 8 and Appendix
- Proposed draft amendment/revision of the *Standard for Fish Oils* (CXS 329–2017): Inclusion of Calanus oil
- Review of the *List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes* (Appendix II to CXC 36–1987)
- Discussion paper on possible work that CCFO could undertake to reduce trans fatty acids (TFAs) or eliminate partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs)
- Consideration of the proposals for new work and or amendments to existing Codex Standards

Public Meeting

At the January 23, 2024 public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Dr. Girdhari Sharma of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at Girdhari.sharma@fda.hhs.gov or Ms. Doreen Chen Moulec of the U.S. Codex Office at Doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov. Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 28th Session of the CCFO.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, the U.S. Codex Office will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the USDA Codex web page located at: <http://www.usda.gov/codex>, a link that also offers an email subscription service providing access to information related to Codex. Customers can add or delete their subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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Done at Washington, DC, on December 19, 2023.

Julie Chao,

Deputy U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2023–28269 Filed 12–21–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS–2023–0029]

2024 Rate Changes for the Basetime, Overtime, Holiday, Laboratory Services, and Export Application Fees

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: FSIS is announcing the 2024 rates it will charge meat, poultry, and egg products establishments, and importers and exporters for providing voluntary, overtime, and holiday inspection and identification, certification, and laboratory services. Additionally, FSIS is announcing that there will be no changes to the fee FSIS assesses to exporters that choose to apply for export certificates electronically through the export component of the Agency's Public Health Information System. The 2024 basetime, overtime, holiday, and laboratory services rates will be applied on January 14, 2024.

DATES: FSIS will charge the rates announced in this notice beginning January 14, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Michael Toner, Director, Budget Division, Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Email: Michael.toner@usda.gov, Telephone: (202) 365-1352.

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, poultry, and egg products establishments 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, and apply the rates on the first FSIS pay period at the beginning of the calendar year. This notice provides the 2024 rates, which will be applied starting on January 14, 2024.

On September 6, 2017, FSIS published the **Federal Register** notice, “Public Health Information System (PHIS) Export Component Country Implementation” (82 FR 42056). The notice announced the delayed implementation of the export component to ensure sufficient testing and outreach to stakeholders and that the application fee would be recalculated based on available costs and number of applications but would not be assessed prior to January 1, 2019. In addition, FSIS announced that it would implement the PHIS Export Component with a limited number of countries and gradually expand implementation to additional countries.

On April 29, 2019, FSIS published the **Federal Register** notice, “Public Health Information System Export Component Fee” (84 FR 17999). The notice announced that starting June 1, 2019, FSIS would assess a fee of \$4.01 to exporters that chose to apply for export certificates electronically through the export component of PHIS. As noted below, that fee remains unchanged since 2019.

2024 Rates and Calculations

The following table lists the 2024 Rates per hour, per employee, by type of service:

Service	2024 Rate (estimates rounded to reflect billable quarter hour)
Basetime	\$71.64
Overtime	87.96
Holiday	104.28
Laboratory	103.24
Export Application	* 4.01

* Per application.

The regulations that cover these fees (other than the export application fee) 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). The final rates have been rounded to make the amount divisible by the quarter hour (15 minutes). Fifteen minutes is the minimum charge for the services covered by these rates.

FSIS determined the 2024 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 2024 basetime rate per hour per program employee is:
 [FY 2023 OFO Regular Direct Pay divided by the previous fiscal year’s Regular Hours (\$476,421,039/15,341,750)] = \$31.05 + (\$31.05 * 5.2% (calendar year 2024 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$32.67 + \$13.34 (benefits rate) + \$2.75 (travel and operating rate) + \$22.86 (overhead rate) + \$0.00 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$71.62, rounded up to \$71.64, 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 2024 overtime rate per hour per program employee is:
 [FY 2023 OFO Regular Direct Pay divided by previous fiscal year’s

Regular Hours (\$476,421,039/15,341,750)] = \$31.05 + (\$31.05 * 5.2% (calendar year 2024 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$32.67 * 1.5 = \$49.01 + \$13.34 (benefits rate) + \$2.75 (travel and operating rate) + \$22.86 (overhead rate) + \$0.00 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$87.95, rounded up to \$87.96, 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 2024 holiday rate per hour per program employee calculation is:

[FY 2023 OFO Regular Direct Pay divided by Regular Hours (\$476,421,039/15,341,750)] = \$31.05 + (\$31.05 * 5.2% (calendar year 2024 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$32.67 * 2 = \$65.34 + \$13.34 (benefits rate) + \$2.75 (travel and operating rate) + \$22.86 (overhead rate) + \$0.00 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$104.29, rounded down to \$104.28, 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 2024 laboratory services rate per hour per program employee is:

[FY 2023 OPHS Regular Direct Pay/OPHS Regular hours (\$28,365,622/464,251)] = \$61.10 + (\$61.10 * 5.2% (calendar year 2024 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$64.28 + \$13.34 (benefits rate) + \$2.75 (travel and operating rate) + \$22.86 (overhead rate) + \$0.00 (bad debt allowance rate) = \$103.23, rounded up to \$103.24, so that it is divisible by 4.

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 benefits are health insurance, retirement, life insurance, and Thrift Savings Plan basic and matching contributions.

The calculation for the 2024 benefits rate per hour per program employee is: [FY 2023 Direct Benefits/(Total Regular hours + Total Overtime hours + Total Holiday hours) (\$236,947,058/18,687,290)] = \$12.68 + (\$12.68 * 5.2% (calendar year 2024 Cost of Living Increase)) = \$13.34.

Travel and Operating Rate: The quotient of dividing the previous fiscal year's total direct travel and operating costs by the previous fiscal year's total hours (regular, overtime, and holiday), plus that quotient multiplied by the calendar year's percentage of inflation.

The calculation for the 2024 travel and operating rate per hour per program employee is:

[FY 2023 Total Direct Travel and Operating Costs/(Total Regular hours + Total Overtime hours + Total Holiday hours) (\$50,219,960/18,687,290)] = \$2.69 + (\$2.69 * 2.3% (2024 Inflation)) = \$2.75.

Overhead Rate: The quotient of dividing the previous fiscal year's indirect costs plus the previous fiscal year's information technology (IT) costs in the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure System Fund plus the provision for the operating balance less any Greenbook costs (*i.e.*, costs of USDA support services prorated to the service component for which fees are charged) that are not related to food inspection by the previous fiscal year's total hours (regular, overtime, and holiday) worked across all funds, plus the quotient multiplied by the calendar year's percentage of inflation.

The calculation for the 2024 overhead rate per hour per program employee is:

[FY 2023 Total Overhead/(Total Regular hours + Total Overtime hours + Total Holiday hours) (\$417,650,727/18,687,290)] = \$22.35 + (\$22.35 * 2.3% (2024 Inflation)) = \$22.86.

Allowance for Bad Debt Rate: Previous fiscal year's total allowance for bad debt (for example, debt owed for overtime and holiday inspection services that is not paid in full by establishments that declare bankruptcy) divided by previous fiscal year's total hours (regular, overtime, and holiday) worked.

The 2024 calculation for bad debt rate per hour per program employee is:

[FY 2023 Total Bad Debt/(Total Regular hours + Total Overtime hours + Total Holiday hours) = (\$73,707/18,687,290)] = \$0.00.

2024 Electronic Export Application Fee

The 2024 Electronic Export Application Fee:

Labor Cost (\$560,901.60+ (\$337,369)) + IT Cost (\$1,414,285.60+\$0)

576,192

= \$4.01

As published in FSIS' final rule, *Electronic Export Application and Certification Charge; Flexibility in the*

Requirements for Export Inspection Marks, Devices, and Certificates; Egg Products Export Certification (81 FR

42225), the Electronic Export Application Fee Formula is:

Labor Cost (Technical Support + Export Library Maintenance) + IT Cost (Ongoing Operations and Maintenance + eAuthentication)

Number of Export Applications

FSIS stated in the 2016 final rule (81 FR 42225) and the 2017 **Federal Register** notice (82 FR 42056) that it would update and recalculate the fee based on the best available estimates for costs and number of applications; however, the number of export applications (the denominator in the formula) cannot be accurately assessed until a majority of countries are included in the export component. Therefore, because a majority of countries are not yet included in the PHIS Export component, the cost estimates and projected export applications in the final rule remain the best estimate for 2024, leaving the

electronic export application fee unchanged.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS web page located at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS will also announce and provide a link through the FSIS *Constituent Update*, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings,

and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The *Constituent Update* is available on the FSIS web page. Through the web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the

option to password protect their accounts.

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/forms/electronic-forms>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) *Mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or (2) *Fax*: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) *Email*: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Done at Washington, DC.

Paul Kiecker,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2023-28231 Filed 12-21-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket ID: NRCS-2023-0021]

Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of public and virtual meeting.

SUMMARY: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a public meeting of the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (UAIPAC). UAIPAC will convene to discuss proposed recommendations for the Secretary of Agriculture on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production practices. UAIPAC is authorized under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended.

DATES:

Written Comments: Written comments will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, February 14, 2023.

Meeting: The UAIPAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

ADDRESSES:

Meeting Location: The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom webinar. Pre-registration is required to attend the UAIPAC meeting and access information will be provided to registered individuals via email. Registration details can be found at: <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag>.

Written Comments: We invite you to send comments in response to this notice. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRCS-2023-0021. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. All written comments received will be publicly available on www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian Guse; Designated Federal Officer; telephone: (202) 205-9723; email: UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov.

Individuals who require alternative means for communication may contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or

dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

UAIPAC Purpose

The Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production is one of several ways that USDA is extending support and building frameworks to support urban agriculture, including issues of equity and food and nutrition access. Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, as amended by section 12302 of the 2018 Farm Bill (7 U.S.C. 6923; Pub. L. 115-334) directed the Secretary to establish an "Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee" to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on any aspect of section 222, including the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices as well as identify any barriers to urban agriculture. UAIPAC will host public meetings to deliberate on recommendations for the Secretary of Agriculture. These recommendations provide advice to the Secretary on supporting urban agriculture and innovative production through USDA's programs and services.

Meeting Agenda

The agenda items may include, but are not limited to, welcome and introductions; administrative matters; presentations from the UAIPAC or USDA staff; and deliberations for proposed recommendations and plans. The USDA UAIPAC website (<https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag>) will be updated with the final agenda at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Written Comments

Comments should address specific topics pertaining to urban agriculture and innovative production. Written comments will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. General questions and comments are also accepted at any time via email: UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov.

Meeting Materials

All written comments received by Wednesday, February 14, 2024, will be compiled for UAIPAC review and will be included in the meeting minutes. Duplicate comments from multiple individuals will appear as one comment, with a notation that multiple copies of the comment were received.