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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

Office of the Secretary

Special Provisions for Canadian Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Imports Under the North American Free Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of determination of existence of conditions necessary for imposition of temporary duty on cauliflower from Canada.

SUMMARY: As required by section 301(a) of the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1988, as amended by the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act ("FTA Implementation Act"), this is a notification that the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the necessary conditions exist with respect to United States acreage and import price criteria for cauliflower classifiable to subheadings 0704104000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) imported from Canada to permit the Secretary to consider recommending to the President the imposition of a temporary duty ("snapback duty") by the United States pursuant to section 301(a) of the FTA Implementation Act, implementing Article 702 of the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement, Special Provisions for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, as incorporated by reference and made a part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) pursuant to Annex 702.1, paragraph 1 of NAFTA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Wetzel, Horticultural & Tropical Products Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1049 or telephone at (202) 720-3423.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FTA Implementation Act, in accordance with the NAFTA, authorizes the imposition of a temporary duty (snapback) for a

limited group of fresh fruits and vegetables from Canada when certain conditions exist. Cauliflower, classified under subheadings 0704104000 of the HTS, is a good subject to the snapback duty provision.

Under section 301(a) of the FTA Implementation Act, two conditions must exist before imposition by the United States of a snapback duty can be considered. First, the import price of a covered Canadian fruit or vegetable, for each of five consecutive working days, must be less than ninety percent of the corresponding five-year average monthly import price. This price for a particular day is the average import price of a Canadian fresh fruit or vegetable imported into the United States from Canada, for the calendar month in which that day occurs, in each of the 5 preceding years, excluding the years with the highest and lowest monthly averages.

Second, the planted acreage in the United States for the like fruit or vegetable must be no higher than the average planted acreage over the preceding five years, excluding the years with the highest and lowest acreage.

From October 27 to November 7, 1997, the price conditions with respect to cauliflower were met.

The most recent revision of planted acreage for cauliflower shows that this year's planted acreage is below the planted acreage over the preceding five years, excluding the years with the highest and lowest planted acreages.

Issued at Washington, D.C. the 27 day of February, 1998.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 98-5880 Filed 3-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-128-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval 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 an extension of approval of an information collection necessary for collecting user fees, ensuring remittances in a timely manner, and determining proper credit for payment of international air passenger, aircraft clearance, commercial truck, commercial railroad car, commercial vessel, phytosanitary certificate, import/export, and veterinary diagnostic user fees.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 8, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 97-128-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket 97-128-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding user fees, contact Ms. Donna J. Ford, User Fees Section Head, FSSB, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 54, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232, (301) 734-5752; or e-mail dford@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Celeste Sickles, Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: User Fee Regulations.

OMB Number: 0579-0094.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: This information collection is necessary for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to

effectively collect fees, ensure remittances in a timely manner, and determine proper credit for payment of international air passenger, aircraft clearance, commercial truck, commercial railroad car, commercial vessel, phytosanitary certificate, import/export, and veterinary diagnostic user fees. APHIS no longer receives an appropriation to fund these activities; instead, user fees are calculated and assessed to ensure full cost recovery of each user fee program. If the information was not collected, the Agency would not be able to perform the services since the fees collected will fund the work.

Requestors of our services usually are repeat customers, and, in many cases, request that we bill them for our services. Also, the 1996 Debt Improvement Collection Act requires that agencies collect tax identification numbers (TIN's) from all persons doing business with the Government for purposes of collecting delinquent debts. Without a TIN, service cannot be provided on a credit basis.

We are responsible for ensuring that the fees collected are correct and that they are remitted in full and in a timely manner. To ensure this, the party responsible for collecting and remitting fees (ticketing agents for transportation companies) must allow APHIS personnel to verify the accuracy of the fees collected and remitted, and otherwise determine compliance with the statute and regulations. We also require that whoever is responsible for making fee payments advise us of the name, address, and telephone number of a responsible officer who is authorized to verify fee calculations, collections, and remittances. The requests for our services are in writing, by telephone, or in person. The information contained in each request identifies the specific service requested and the time in which the requester wishes the service to be performed. This information is necessary in order for the animal import centers and port offices to schedule the work and to calculate the fees due.

We have reviewed paperwork requirements of the user fee programs and have made every possible effort to streamline our processes and minimize the impact on the public. Whenever possible, we are using existing billing/collection methods to minimize the cost to the Agency. If the work is not performed, individuals and business entities will not be able to import animals, fruits, vegetables, plants, and animal and plant products.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to

approve the continued use of this information collection activity.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

- (1) Evaluate 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) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed 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 0.03663 hours per response.

Respondents: Arriving international passengers, international means of conveyance, and importers and exporters who wish to import or export animals and animal products.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 17,761.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 11.7773.

Estimated annual number of responses: 209,177.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 7,663 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average 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 3rd day of March 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-5988 Filed 3-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-011-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval 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 an extension of approval of an information collection in support of plant pest, noxious weed, and garbage regulations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 8, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 98-011-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-011-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information regarding the plant pest and noxious weed regulations, contact Polly Lehtonen, Botanist, Biological Assessments & Taxonomic Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737, (301) 734-4394. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Plant Pest and Noxious Weed Regulations.

OMB Number: 0579-0054.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.