

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 16, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: James P. Triplitt, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch (SRTB), Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325, telephone (301) 504-9430, FAX (301) 504-5454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Seed Service Testing Program.
OMB Number: 0581-0140.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of currently approved information collection.

Abstract: This information collection is necessary for the conduct voluntary seed testing on a fee for service basis. The Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) Section 203(h) authorizes the Secretary to inspect and certify the quality of agricultural products and collect such fees as reasonable to cover the cost of service rendered.

The purpose of the voluntary program is to promote efficient, orderly marketing of seeds, and assist in the development of new and expanding markets. Under the program samples of agricultural and vegetable seeds submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Service are tested for factors such as purity and germination at the request of the applicant for the service. In addition, grain samples, submitted at the applicant's request, by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration are examined for the presence of certain weed and crop seed. A Federal Seed Analysis Certificate is issued giving the test results. Most of the seed tested under this program is scheduled for export. Many importing countries require a Federal Seed Analysis Certificate on United States seed.

The only information collected is information needed to provide the service requested by the applicant. This includes information to identify the seed being tested, the seed treatment (if treated with a pesticide), the tests to be performed, and any other appropriate information required by the applicant to be on the Federal Seed Analysis Certificate.

The burden for this collection is reduced because fewer samples were submitted for test than estimated in current information collection. Since information is collected for each sample an applicant submits for test, when applicants submit fewer samples the information collected is reduced.

The information in this collection is used only by authorized AMS employees to track, test, and report test results to the applicant.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .25 hours per response.

Respondents: Applicants for seed testing service.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 92.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 16.9.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 390.

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. Comments may be sent to James P. Triplitt, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, LS, AMS, USDA, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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.

Dated: January 6, 1998.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 98-733 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. LS-97-010]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Federal Seed Act Labeling and Enforcement.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 16, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact James P. Triplitt, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch (SRTB), Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325, telephone (301) 504-9430, FAX (301) 504-5454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Seed Act Program.

OMB Number: 0581-0026.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of currently approved information collection.

Abstract: This information collection is necessary to conduct of the Federal Seed Act (FSA) (7 U.S.C. 1551 *et seq.*) program with respect to certain testing, labeling, and recordkeeping requirements of agricultural and vegetable seeds in interstate commerce.

The FSA, Title II, is a truth-in-labeling law that regulates agricultural and vegetable planting seed in interstate commerce. Seed subject to the FSA must be labeled with certain quality information and it requires that information to be truthful. The Act prohibits the interstate shipment of falsely advertised seed and seed containing noxious-weed seeds that are prohibited from sale in the State the seed into which the seed is being shipped.

Besides providing farmers and other seed buyers with information necessary to make an informed choice and protect the buyer from buying mislabeled seed, the FSA promotes fair competition within the seed industry. It also encourages uniformity in labeling, aiding the movement of seed between the States. Because seed moving in interstate commerce must be labeled according to the FSA, most State laws have seed labeling requirements similar to those of the FSA, causing more uniformity of State laws.

Although anyone can submit a complaint to the SRTB, the FSA is primarily enforced through cooperative agreements with the States. State seed inspectors inspect and sample seed

where it is being sold. They send a sample of the seed and a copy of the labeling to the State seed laboratory where the sample is tested and the analysis compared with the label. When violations are found, State personnel may take corrective action such as issuing a stop sale order to keep the seed from being sold until it is correctly labeled or otherwise disposed of. They may also take action against the shipper or labeler of the seed. The action a State may take against a shipper in another State is limited. Therefore, violations involving interstate shipments may be turned over to AMS for Federal action.

AMS investigates the complaints. The investigation normally involves check testing the State's official sample and possibly the shipper's file sample at the Testing Section. The shipper's records are checked to establish that there was a violation of the FSA, responsibility for the violation, and the cause of the mislabeling, if possible. The investigation will help the shipper find and correct the problem causing the violation and help AMS to determine the appropriate regulatory action. Regulatory action is to take no action if the investigation finds the FSA was not violated, a letter of warning for less serious violations, or a monetary settlement for more serious violations.

No unique forms are required for this information collection. The FSA requires seed in interstate commerce to be tested and labeled. Once in a State, seed must comply with the testing and labeling requirements of the State seed law. The same test and labeling required by the FSA nearly always satisfies the State's testing and labeling requirements. Also the receiving, sales, cleaning, testing, and labeling records required by the FSA, are records that the shipper would normally keep in good business practice.

The information obtained under this information collection is the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the enforcement of the FSA.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.06 hours per response.

Respondents: Interstate shippers and labelers of seed.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,208.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 5.56.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 36,793.

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. Comments may be sent to James P. Triplitt, Chief, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, LS, AMS, USDA, Room 209, Building 306, BARC-E., Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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.

Dated: January 6, 1998.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 98-734 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 94-106-12]

RIN 0579-AA71

Agency Information Collection Activities; OMB Approval Received

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Office of Management and Budget's approval of a collection of information contained in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's final rule that establishes procedures for recognizing regions for the purpose of the importation of animals and animal products into the United States, and that establishes procedures by which regions may request permission to export animals and animal products to the United States under specified conditions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cheryl Jenkins, APHIS Information Collection Coordinator, AIM, APHIS, suite 2C42, 4700 River Road, Unit 103,

Riverdale, MD 20737-1235, (301) 734-5360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 28, 1997, we published a final rule in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 55999-56026, Docket No. 94-106-9) amending 9 CFR parts 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, and 130 to establish procedures for recognizing regions, rather than only countries, for the purpose of the importation of animals and animal products into the United States. The final rule also established procedures by which regions may request permission to export animals and animal products to the United States under certain conditions, based on the regions' disease status. That rule contains information collection requirements, some of which had been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the time the rule was published. On December 5, 1997, OMB approved the remainder of the collection of information requirements in that final rule, with respect to 9 CFR parts 92, 93, and 98, under OMB control number 0579-0040 (expires June 30, 1999).

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of January 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-745 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-083N]

Codex Alimentarius: Meeting of the Codex Committee on General

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius is sponsoring a public meeting to provide information and receive comments from the public on items that will be discussed at the Codex Committee on General Principles, which will be held May 11 to 15, 1998, in Paris, France. The Manager recognizes the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the Thirteenth Session of the General Principles Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). Attendees will hear brief descriptions of the issues and will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments on the issues.