

Notices

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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

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service's intention to request Office of Management and Budget approval of the Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by November 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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 may be sent to: Alberta C. Frost, Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection forms should be directed to Alberta C. Frost, (703) 305-2117.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

OMB Number: 0584-0485.

Expiration Date: 03/31/2002.

Type of Request: New collection of information for third year of study.

Abstract: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative (SMI) for Healthy Children is a three-year study designed to collect information needed to address current policy issues including those associated with the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and Team Nutrition. A major part of this study is intended to provide the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) with descriptive data on the status of School Food Authorities' (SFAs) implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and the changes that have occurred in the food service operations as a result of implementing this new regulation. FNS will examine trends in SMI implementation and characteristics of SFAs implementing certain elements of SMI and Team Nutrition.

A nationally representative sample of approximately 2,250 public school districts was selected in 1997 to participate in a three-year longitudinal survey which began in School Year 1997-98. Data is being collected from the SFA directors using a mixed mode approach of mail/telephone surveys. The study combines elements of longitudinal research and cross-sectional surveys. A brief self-administered mail survey of all State Child Nutrition Directors will be included each year. This request for OMB approval is for the third year data collection instrumentation only. Estimates of burden shown below are based upon field experience from the first two years of data collection.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden is estimated to range between 45 and 60 minutes for School Food Service Authority directors; and range between 20 and 30 minutes for State Child Nutrition directors;

Respondents: State Child Nutrition directors and SFA directors will be asked to respond to a self-administered mail survey with telephone follow-up.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 State Child Nutrition directors, 2,250 SFA directors.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,850 hours.

Dated: August 26, 1999.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 99-22871 Filed 9-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-043N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex): Conference on International Food Trade Beyond 2000

AGENCY: Office of Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, and the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture; the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the National Marine Fisheries Service, United States Department of Commerce; and the Environmental Protection Agency, are sponsoring a public meeting on September 16, 1999, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items for the Conference on International Food Trade Beyond 2000, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, October 11-15, 1999. The co-sponsors of the September 16, 1999, public meeting recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on this session and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 1999, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Uruguay Round Agreements have been in effect for five years now and a further round of multilateral trade negotiations—under the World Trade Organization (WTO)—will be starting in

the near future. In light of this new round, FAO believes it is opportune to hold an intergovernmental conference on the implementation of Codex work. The aim is to achieve the full involvement of member Governments in existing and proposed activities related to Codex and WTO.

One objective of the Conference on International Food Trade Beyond 2000 will be to enhance the capacity of developing countries both to enjoy the benefits they accrued on signing the Uruguay Round Agreements and to fulfill their commitments. The conference will address how food quality and safety issues affect trade, health, and development at both domestic and international levels. Pointing the way from 2000 onward, it will take into account recommendations of the 1991 conference, current needs in the field of food trade, the Uruguay Round Agreements and the forthcoming round of WTO negotiations.

The Conference will review the response to the earlier FAO/WHO conference and the action taken by these two organizations, with WTO, to assist Member Governments in meeting their SPS and TBT obligations. This will necessarily entail a full analysis of current Codex, SPS and TBT the upcoming Conference on International Food Trade Beyond 2000:

The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which began in 1985 under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), for the first time included discussions on agriculture and agricultural products. The negotiations also covered sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as other standards and activities that could cause unjustified non-tariff barriers to trade in food and agricultural products. When the Uruguay Round was concluded in 1994, among the final Agreements were those on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

In 1991, FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly convened the Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade, in cooperation with GATT. The occasion provided a forum for member Governments to discuss, among other things, the probable impact of the proposed SPS and TBT Agreements on international and domestic food trade. The conference was highly successful and the subsequent implementation of its recommendations on strategies and priorities allowed all parties concerned—FAO, WHO, Codex, GATT, national governments, industries, and consumers—to be better prepared for

the food quality and safety obligations of the two Agreements in question.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 104A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. The document website of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is <http://www.fao.org/es/esn/austral/alicom99/alicom-e.htm>. Send an original and two copies of comments to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #99-043N, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Please state that your comments relate to Docket #99-043N, and specify which issues your comments address. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700, telephone: (202) 205-7760, FAX: (202) 720-3157. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Yolande Mitchell, telephone (202) 205-7760, FAX: (202) 720-3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has developed the following objectives for procedures and of the prospects for further change. Carried out within the context of an international conference, such a review should generate coherent recommendations on scientifically based approaches to promoting better-quality and safer foods in domestic and international trade.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following specific issues are included on the published agenda for the Conference on International Food Trade Beyond 2000. Prior to the conference FAO will make papers available which will include recommendations on each of the issues listed. These papers will be available through the FAO documents website (see **ADDRESSES**). As the papers become available from FAO they will be placed on file in the FSIS Docket Clerk's office. These issues will be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Response to the 1991 Joint FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade
2. The Codex Alimentarius Commission
3. Current Status of Food Trade, Including Food Quality and Safety Problems
4. Review of the Implementation of the SPS/TBT Agreements
5. Challenges for Developing Countries in Meeting the Obligations of the SPS/TBT/Codex
6. Basic Approaches to Consumer Protection—FAO/WHO Model Food Act; Control Procedures
7. Harmonization of Food Regulations and Food Quality/Safety Measures Based on Codex Standards, Guidelines and Recommendations
8. Assuring Food Quality and Safety: Back to the Basics—Quality Control Throughout the Food Chain; the role of industry, governments, consumers and academia
9. Prospects for the future:
 - a. Emerging Technologies—Ensuring the Quality and Safety of Food
 - b. Emerging Problems: Chemical/Biological
 - c. Emerging Problems: Allergens
 - d. Nutritional, Environmental and Sustainable Food Production Considerations
- (i) Changes in cultural and consumer habits
- (ii) Promoting science-based dialogue on emerging technologies and problems
- (iii) Nutrition, environment and sustainable food production
10. Assuring Science-based Decisions
 - a. Expert Advice and Risk Analysis—Validity of the Process and Dealing with Uncertainty
 - b. Determining the Appropriate Level of Protection; Threshold of Regulations—Implementation
11. Harmonization, Mutual Recognition and Equivalence
 - a. How and what is attainable?
 - b. Labelling and Nutritional Aspects—How much information is necessary?
12. Technical Assistance Needs of Developing Countries and Mechanisms to Provide Technical Assistance

Public Meeting

Those attending the public meeting on September 16, 1999, will hear brief descriptions of the issues, and will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments.

Additional Public Notification

Pursuant to Departmental Regulation 4300-4, "Civil Rights Impact Analysis," dated September 22, 1993, FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this notice on minorities,

women, and persons with disabilities. Therefore, to better ensure that these groups and others are made aware of this meeting, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of the **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update.

The Agency provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding Agency policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** Notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through these various channels, the Agency is able to provide information with a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 99-22901 Filed 9-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Arizona Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Arizona Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 1999, at the Clarion Hotel, Tucson Airport, 6801 South Tucson Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85706. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss civil rights issues in Arizona and a draft report.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the

Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, August 27, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 99-22855 Filed 9-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Michigan Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that the Michigan Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene a community forum at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 1999, at the Holiday Inn, Fairlane-Dearborn Conference Center, 5801 Southfield Service Drive, Detroit, Michigan. The purpose of the community forum is to receive information regarding "Civil Rights Issues Facing Arab Americans."

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Roland Hwang, 517-373-1480, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, August 25, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 99-22853 Filed 9-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene at 4:00 p.m. and adjourn at 8:30 p.m. on September 29, 1999, at the

Providence Marriott, One Orms Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02904. The purpose of the meeting is to receive information on police-community relations in Providence from invited presenters. The Committee will also discuss and plan for future events.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Olga Noguera, 401-464-1876, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, August 27, 1999.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 99-22856 Filed 9-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Wisconsin Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that the Wisconsin Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene a community forum at 9:30 a.m. and recess at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, 1999, at the Radisson Inn Harbourwalk, 223 Gaslight Circle, Racine, Wisconsin. The Committee will reconvene at 6:30 p.m. and adjourn at 8:30 p.m. at the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department-Community Center, 601 21st Street, Racine, Wisconsin. The purpose of the community forum is to gather information on "Race Relations in Racine County, Wisconsin."

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Geraldine McFadden, 414-444-1952, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.