

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

Farm Service Agency

Request for Approval for an Addendum to a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to amend a current information collection. To facilitate payment to vendors, invoice and payment forms (KC-269, Notice to Deliver and KC-269-A, Forwarding Notice) previously cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), are being amended to include a self-certification form concerning delivery of commodities. These commodities are purchased for use in domestic food assistance programs, which are operated through a cooperative effort of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and three agencies within the Department of Agriculture: FSA, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before November 15, 1999 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Greg Borchert, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536, fax (816) 926-6767.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Offer Forms and Shipment Information Log—5 CFR 1320.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0177.

Expiration Date: 1/31/01.

Type of Request: Approval of an Addendum to a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: FSA and AMS purchase commodities for FNS's domestic food assistance programs for delivery to warehouses operated for, or under contract with, State agencies. Under an agreement among FSA, CCC, AMS, and FNS, each agency agrees to perform a certain function in order to carry out the domestic food assistance programs. One of the FSA's functions is to handle billing documents and make payments. Until now, FSA has solely relied upon consignee receipts to provide sufficient proof of delivery to allow payments to vendors. Because these receipts were handled by several parties, including State Governments and warehouses, the amount of time it took for such receipts to reach the FSA payment office because quite lengthy. To shorten the payment process, FSA is allowing vendors to self-certify to the quantity of commodity delivered and to the date of delivery. Self-certification will ease the burden on small business' cash flow by allowing payments for commodities to be issued more timely. The self-certification will be included in the package of forms previously approved by OMB under 0560-0052. The use of self-certification provides reasonable and proper financial controls and accountability for program funds. Procurement agencies will also amend purchase announcements and transportation contracts to allow for the self-certification. FNS will still require the submission of an FNS-57 (Report of Shipment Received Over, Short, and/or Damaged (OSD)), when necessary.

Regulations governing paperwork burdens on the public require that before an agency collects information from the public, the agency must receive approval from OMB. In accordance with those regulations, FSA is seeking approval for these forms to provide for delivery self-certification.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for collecting information under this notice is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Respondents: Business and other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 176 for form KC-269, and 30 for form KC-269-A.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 100 for form KC-269, and 150 for form KC-269-A.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,467 hour for form KC-269, and 375 hours for form KC-269-A.

Proposed topics for comment included: (a) whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 regarding this information collection requirement should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Washington, DC 20503, and to Greg Borchert, Chief, Planning and Analysis Division, Kansas City Commodity Office, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, telephone (816) 926-3536, fax (816) 926-6767.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information contained in this notice between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of consideration if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication of this notice. 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.

Signed at Washington, DC., on September 8, 1999.

Parks Shackelford,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 99-23952 Filed 9-13-99; 8:45 am]

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