

Dated: October 1, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-26188 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

1999 Economic Census Pretest

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Bruce M. Goldhirsch, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 2614/3, Washington, DC 20233-6100, (301-457-2626).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The proposed information collection is a test of an alternative form design for collecting retail trade data in the upcoming 2002 Economic Census. Currently, we collect the retail trade statistics in the economic census using a two column 8½ x 14 inch size report form. The current design has the most important questions, total receipts, payroll, employment, and kinds of business activity on the first page of the questionnaire.

The Census Bureau will test the effects of changing the report form from the two column 8½ x 14 to a single column 8½ x 11 form. The single column 8½ x 11 inch form has the advantage of being easier to fax, photocopy, download from the Internet, and has been requested by our

respondents. Items we are looking for in this pretest are the possible effects on the response rate because the forms will have more pages and possible higher item nonresponse rate for the key data items that will move from page one of the questionnaire to page two.

There will be four panels comprising the 1999 pretest. Each panel will use the existing 1997 data content. The first panel will be the standard two column 8½ x 14 inch form and will be a control panel. The second panel will be a two column 8½ x 11 inch form. The third panel will be a single column 8½ x 11 inch form. The fourth panel will be a single column 8½ x 14 inch form.

Each panel will have 2,381 respondents. This will enable us to measure a reporting change of 5 percent or more with a 90 percent confidence level assuming a 50 percent response rate.

For the pretest we have selected three retail trade forms from the 1997 census. They are the RT-5504, Gasoline Stations; RT-5801, Eating, Drinking Places; and RT-5901, Health and Personal Care Stores. Each report form will be subjected to the same four panel treatment.

II. Method of Collection

The collection for the 1999 Economic Pretest will use a mail-out/mail-back method.

III. Data

OMB Number: Not available.

Form Number: RT-5504A, RT-5504B, RT-5504C, RT-5504D, RT-5801A, RT-5801B, RT-5801C, RT-5801D, RT-5901A, RT-5901B, RT-5901C, and RT-5901D.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Single unit retail establishments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 9,524.

Estimated Time Per Response: .77 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7,333.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: We do not expect respondents to incur any costs other than that time required to complete the questionnaire. The total time cost is estimated to be \$97,095. The information requested is of the type and scope normally carried in company records and no special hardware or accounting software or system is necessary to provide answers to this information collection. Therefore, respondents are not expected to incur any capital and start-up costs or system maintenance costs in responding. Further, purchasing of outside accounting or information collection

services, if performed by the respondent, is part of usual and customary business practices and not specifically required for this information collection.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 131, 193, and 224.

IV. Request for Comments

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 1, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-26189 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092899F]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements; Public Workshop

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of workshop.

SUMMARY: NMFS and the United States Coast Guard North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center will present an integrated approach to clarify and explain NMFS 2000 recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the Alaska groundfish fisheries. In addition, information on the proposed shoreside electronic delivery report will be presented. The workshop will provide

detailed instructions on completion and submittal of the required logsheets and reporting forms developed for the American Fisheries Act, open-access groundfish, Community Development Quota, Individual Fishing Quota, and at-sea scale programs.

DATES: Friday, November 19, 1999, 10 a.m. until 12 noon, Alaska local time.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at FISH EXPO, Room 210, Washington State Convention and Trade Center, 800 Convention Place, Seattle, WA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patsy A. Bearden, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Other workshops will be held at later dates in Homer, Kodiak, and Sitka, AK, and in Seattle, WA, to provide industry with information for NMFS 2000 recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the Alaska groundfish fisheries as required by regulations at 50 CFR part 679.

Special Accommodations

This workshop is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Patsy Bearden at 907-586-7228 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: October 1, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-26123 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Cantor Financial Futures Exchange's Proposal To Adopt Block Trading Procedures

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed new rules and rule amendments of the Cantor Financial Futures Exchange to establish block trading procedures and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The New York Board of Trade, on behalf of the Cantor Financial Futures Exchange, Inc. ("CX" or "Exchange"), has submitted proposed new rules and rule amendments to the Commission that would establish block trading procedures at CX. Under these procedures, qualified market participants would be allowed to negotiate and arrange futures transactions of a minimum size bilaterally away from the centralized,

competitive market. Once the specific terms of the block transaction had been agreed to, the counterparties would report the relevant details of the transaction to the Exchange for clearing and settlement. CX's proposal is the first contract market proposal that the Commission has received that would allow block trading.

Acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96(b), the Division of Trading and Markets ("Division") has determined to publish CX's proposal for public comment. The Division believes that publication of the proposal is in the public interest and will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581. Comments also may be sent by facsimile to (202) 418-5221 or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the "Cantor Financial Future Exchange's Proposal to Adopt Block Trading Procedures."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David P. Van Wagner, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581. Telephone (202) 418-5430.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On June 4, 1999, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission issued an Advisory on Alternative Execution, or Block Trading, Procedures for the Futures Industry.¹ Through this Advisory, the Commission announced its intention to consider contract market proposals to adopt alternative execution, or block trading, procedures for large size or other types of orders on a case-by-case basis under a flexible approach to the requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act") and

the Commission's regulations. Under this approach, each contract market retains the discretion to permit alternative execution procedures and has the ability to develop procedures that reflect the particular characteristics and needs of its individual markets and market participants.

After the issuance of the Advisory, the New York Board of Trade, on behalf of CX, submitted proposed new CX Rules 4-A and 305-A and proposed amendments to CX Rules 300, 302, and 306 to the Commission pursuant to Section 5a(a)(12)(A) of the Act and Commission Regulation 1.41(c).² The proposed new rules and rule amendments would establish block trading procedures at CX. Under these procedures, qualified market participants would be allowed to negotiate and arrange futures transactions of a minimum size bilaterally away from the centralized, competitive market. Once the specific terms of the block transaction had been agreed to, the counterparties would report the relevant details of the transaction to CX for clearing and settlement. Thus, under the proposed procedures, certain futures transactions could be executed noncompetitively rather than through CX's electronic order-matching system.

II. Description of the Proposed Block Trading Procedures

A. Eligible Contracts and Market Participants

Under the proposed procedures, block trading would be permitted in any contract that has been designated by CX for such purpose. CX is seeking to permit block trading in those contracts for which it has been designated as a contract market by the Commission.³ CX's proposal also would restrict block trading to those market participants that qualify as an "eligible participant" as that term is defined by Commission Regulation 36.1(c)(2). However, a commodity trading advisor registered under Act (including without limitation any investment advisor registered as such with the Securities and Exchange Commission that is exempt from regulation under the Act or the Commission's regulations) with total assets under management exceeding \$50 million may enter into block

¹ 64 FR 31195 (June 10, 1999); 64 FR 34851 (corrections). The Commission first raised the subject of alternative execution, or block trading, procedures in its Concept Release on the Regulation of Noncompetitive Transactions Executed on or Subject to the Rules of a Contract Market. 63 FR 3708 (January 26, 1998). Through the Concept Release, the Commission wished to explore whether certain alternative execution procedures for large size or other types of orders could be developed to satisfy the needs of market participants while furthering the policies and purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Commission's Regulations.

² See Letter from Ms. Audrey R. Hirschfeld, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, New York Board of Trade to Ms. Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, dated September 15, 1999.

³ Such contracts include: (1) U.S. Treasury Bond futures; (2) U.S. Treasury Ten-Year Note futures; (3) U.S. Treasury Five-Year Note futures; and (4) U.S. Treasury Two-Year Note futures.