

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[PY-00-001]

U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of publication of U.S. Trade Description Tentative Standards for Poultry with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is publishing the United States (U.S.) Trade Descriptions for Poultry. The U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry establish voluntary trade standards for ready-to-cook chicken products produced in the U.S. The descriptions are intended to facilitate wholesale trading of poultry by providing a tool to better communicate product and packaging requirements among buyers and sellers. Comments are requested regarding the description's effectiveness, ease of use, and technical accuracy.

DATES: Use of the descriptions will begin on October 25, 2000 and will continue until AMS makes a final determination about the usefulness of the tentative standards. Comments must be received on or before April 23, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions and written comments may be submitted to David Bowden, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Room 3944-South Building, STOP 0259, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0259; faxed to (202) 690-0941; or e-mailed to pydocket@usda.gov. State that your comments refer to Docket No. PY-00-001. Comments received may be viewed over the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/regulations/rulemaking/index.htm

or at the address above between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Copies of the tentative U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry are available over the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/regulations/rulemaking/index.htm or by writing the address above, by faxing (202) 690-0941, or by phoning (202) 720-3506. A fee will be charged for color copies of the standard to recover the cost of printing and distribution.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) authorizes USDA to develop and maintain agricultural commodity standards to facilitate the domestic and international trading of U.S. agricultural products. In 1998, the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council, an industry trade organization, expressed interest in having AMS develop voluntary U.S. standards to facilitate the domestic and international wholesale trading of ready-to-cook poultry produced in the United States. AMS is calling these standards "U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry" and will maintain them as AMS 71.

Currently, AMS maintains voluntary standards that define quality grade levels for poultry products by limiting or excluding product defects such as broken or disjointed bones, exposed flesh, meat and skin discoloration, and freezing defects. AMS 71 U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry differ from these standards in that they describe the composition of poultry products by defining characteristics such as which parts of the bird are included, whether bone and skin are present, and how the product is packaged and packed. The two standards may be used in conjunction with each other.

Although AMS intends to develop trade descriptions for all commonly traded poultry products, descriptions for ready-to-cook chicken products are the first to be available for industry use. These standards consist of word and picture descriptions for over 70 chicken product styles and define a numeric coding system that communicates product and packaging characteristics for products to be traded. The descriptions were developed in cooperation with the poultry industry,

including national industry organizations.

A seller may self-certify that delivered product satisfies all product and packaging characteristics of the trade description specified by the buyer. For additional assurance, however, the buyer or seller may request that AMS examine and officially certify that the product meets the specified U.S. trade description requirements. The AMS Poultry Grading Service has procedures for certifying that products meet the requirements of the U.S. trade descriptions. This service is available for both officially graded and non-graded products.

AMS believes that the effectiveness and usefulness of a new standard will be best determined through industry use. For this reason, AMS is providing interested parties with 180 days to comment on their effectiveness, ease of use, and technical accuracy.

After the comment period has closed, the Agency will evaluate comments received and other information to determine if the tentative U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry should be modified or become official. Once determined, the Agency's decision will be published as a notice in the **Federal Register**.

AMS encourages high-volume wholesale buyers and sellers of chicken to use the tentative standards to define the products they trade. They can do so by obtaining a copy of the trade descriptions and using the product definitions and numeric codes in the trade descriptions to identify all product and packaging requirements for the products they wish to trade. This code can then be incorporated into the contract with wording such as "Product and packaging shall meet requirements of U.S. Trade Description No. 70101-13-11140001270-1*01100114-184001816-0." An Internet web site will be developed by AMS to provide on-line, interactive assistance with the specification and documentation process.

Interested parties can obtain further information or assistance in the use of the trade descriptions by contacting the Poultry Programs Standardization Branch by e-mail (Carmen.Humphrey@usda.gov), fax (202 690-0941), or phone (202 720-3506).

Dated: October 18, 2000.

Kathleen A. Merrigan,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 00-27412 Filed 10-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau.

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Title: Advance Monthly Retail Sales Survey.

Form Number(s): SM-44(00)A, SM-44(00)AS, SM-44(00)AE, SM-72(00)A. *Agency Approval Number:* 0607-0104.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 4,500 hours.

Number of Respondents: 4,500.

Avg Hours Per Response: 5 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Advance Monthly Retail Sales Survey (MARTS) provides an early indication of current retail sales activity at the United States level. Policymakers such as the Federal Reserve Board need to have the most timely estimates in order to anticipate economic trends and act accordingly. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA), and other government agencies and businesses use the data to

formulate economic policy and make decisions. These estimates have a high BEA priority because of their timeliness. There would be approximately a month delay in the availability of these data if this survey were not conducted. Data are collected monthly from small, medium, and large size businesses, selected using a stratified random sampling procedure. The MARTS sample is re-selected periodically, generally at two year intervals. Small and medium-size retailers are requested to participate for those two years, after which they are replaced with new panel members. Smaller firms have less of a chance for selection due to our sampling procedure. We are increasing the sample size from 4,100 to 4,500 to improve the quality of the estimates.

This request is for the clearance of four similar report forms SM-44(00)A; SM-44(00)AE; SM-44(00)AS & SM-72(00)A which will be replacing the form B-104 previously used to collect data in this survey on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) basis. The new forms will enable us to collect information on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis. All forms request similar data items but a variety of forms is needed to either address collecting E-commerce sales or the firm's specific kind-of-business.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C.,

Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3129, Department of Commerce, room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at mclayton@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 20, 2000.

Madeleine Clayton,

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

[FR Doc. 00-27423 Filed 10-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Notice of Petitions by Producing Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Commerce.

ACTION: To give firms an opportunity to comment.

Petitions have been accepted for filing on the dates indicated from the firms listed below.

LIST OF PETITION ACTION BY TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PERIOD AUGUST 16, 2000-SEPTEMBER 22, 2000

Firm name	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
Compol, Inc	415 Campbell Mill Road, Mason, NH 03048	28-Sep-2000	Special purpose radio receivers utilizing sub frequencies for use of targeted segments of the general public.
BGF Industries Inc	3802 Robert Porcher Way, Greensboro, NC 27410.	28-Sep-2000	Fiberglass fabric for the electronics, automotive, aerospace and marine industries.
Nelson-Whittaker, Ltd. dba, Central Specialties, Ltd.	220-D Exchange Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.	28-Sep-2000	Metal stands for trays or luggage.
Aneco Trousers Corporation	713 Linden Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331 ...	28-Sep-2000	Men's trousers of wood and wool blend material.
Datatest, Inc	6850 Hibbs Lane, Levittown, PA 19057	28-Sep-2000	Instruments for measuring variables of liquids or gases.
Cozzoli Machine Company ..	401 East Third Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060	28-Sep-2000	Custom filling machinery and systems.
Taos Drum Company	3956 Hwy 68, Ranchos de Taos, Taos, NM 87557.	29-Sep-2000	Native drums.
Superior Gearbox Co., Inc ...	803 West Hwy. 32, Stockton, MO 65785 ...	02-Oct-2000	Right-angle gearboxes and pump drives.
Santa Fe Furniture Co. dba, Taos Furniture Co.	1807 Second Street, Santa Fe, NM 87505	02-Oct-2000	Furniture of wood for bedrooms, dining rooms and entertainment centers.
E&S Equipment, Inc	109 Skyland Drive, Norman, OK 73071	02-Oct-2000	Valve parts.
Electron Corporation (The) ...	5101 S. Rio Grande Street, Littleton, CO 80120.	02-Oct-2000	Gray and ductile iron castings.
Sassco, Inc. dba Taku Smokeries, dba Taku Fish- eries.	550 S. Franklin Street, Juneau, AK 99801	02-Oct-2000	Fresh and frozen seafood.