

Estimated Total Annual Burden:
107,135.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10737 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request—Child Nutrition
Labeling Program**

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Food and Consumer Service (FCS) to request OMB review of information collection activities related to the Child Nutrition Labeling Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 1, 1996.

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;
(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. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a matter of public record. Send comments to: Ms. Marion Hinnens, Acting Branch Chief, Technical Assistance Branch, Nutrition and Technical Services Division, Food and Consumer Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Request for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instruction should be directed to Marion Hinnens at (703) 305-2556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Child Nutrition Labeling Program.

OMB Number: 0584-0320.

Expiration Date: 6/30/96.

Type of Request: Revision of currently approved, voluntary collection of information contained in existing regulation.

Abstract: The Child Nutrition (CN) labeling program is a voluntary technical assistance program to aid schools and institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in determining the contribution a commercial product makes toward the food-based meal pattern requirements of these programs. There is no Federal requirement that commercial products must have a CN label statement.

To participate in the Program, industry submits product labels and formulations to FCS that are in conformance with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) label approval program for meat and poultry, and United States Department of Commerce (USDC) label approval program for seafood products. FCS reviews a manufacturer's product formulation to determine the contribution a serving of the product makes toward the food-based meal pattern requirements. The application form submitted to FCS is the same application that companies submit to FSIS and USDC to receive labeling approval. A CN label application is also reviewed by FCS for accuracy.

Estimate of Burden: Based on our most recent interviews with manufacturers it is estimated that it takes a manufacturer forty-five minutes to complete the required calculations and to formulate the CN label application.

Respondents: Participation in the CN labeling program is voluntary. Only manufacturers who wish to place CN labels on their products must comply with program requirements. Last year 628 establishments sent in 5,698 label transmittals.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 628.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 9.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,274 hours.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10764 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

**Food Stamp Program: Agency
Information Collection Activities:
Proposed Collection; Comment
Request; Energy Assistance**

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. Section 1306 of the 1981 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 97-98) is the basis for the information required at 7 CFR 273.9(c)(11) of a State agency seeking to disregard as income for food stamp purposes State or local energy assistance payments. Failure to obtain the required level of documentation could result in large dollar losses due to disregard of income for food stamp purposes that is not in fact excludable energy assistance.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 1, 1996.

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 shall 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;
(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 Margaret Werts Batko, Acting Chief, Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Consumer 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 OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Requests for additional information should be directed to Margaret Werts Batko (703) 305-2516.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Energy Assistance.

OMB Number: 0584-0301.

Form Number: not a form.

Expiration Date: 6/30/96.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Section 273.9(c)(11) of the Food Stamp Program regulations requires that Federal, State or local energy assistance be disregarded as income for Food Stamp Program purposes. When a State agency wants to disregard income as energy assistance, it must justify its request by satisfying certain indicators of purpose in order to ensure that the funds in question are in fact energy assistance and not just a shifting of State agency costs to the National taxpayer. Indications that the payments in question are energy assistance include: the payments are not limited to public assistance (PA) or general assistance (GA) households; payments should go only to households that incur home energy costs; payments combined with other assistance payments such as GA or PA must result in an increase in total assistance not counting food stamps; the payments are based on studies, surveys or reports evaluating home energy costs; the payments are designated as energy assistance by the legislative body enacting them and the levels of payments are calculated based on the seasonal home energy needs of typical households over an aggregate period not exceeding six months per year. If the payments are provided over a period longer than this aggregate, the State agency must document the reasons. The number of State agencies with approved energy assistance disregards has decreased from 11 to 9. Energy costs are down. There is also pending legislation that would eliminate this disregard entirely. It is unlikely that there will be any requests for an energy assistance disregard from State agencies not currently participating. In addition, the Food and Consumer Service (FCS) dropped its insistence on an annual information collection for currently participating State agencies to rejustify previously approved energy assistance disregards. Submission of the information collection to FCS for approval is only required when a currently participating State agency is seeking approval to increase the energy assistance disregard. Based on past experience in recent years, it is anticipated that only 1 already participating State agency may seek to justify an increase in its currently approved energy assistance disregard in any given year.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1.

Estimated Time per Response: 4 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 4 hours.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10784 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request; Disaster Food
Stamp Assistance**

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. This information collection is based on the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, which provide the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the needs of families temporarily in need of food assistance after a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required for the establishment and operation of emergency food stamp assistance programs.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 1, 1996.

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 shall 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; (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 Margaret Werts Batko, Acting Chief, Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, Food and Consumer 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 OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Requests for additional information should be directed to Margaret Werts Batko (703) 305-2516.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Emergency Food Stamp Assistance for Victims of Disasters.

OMB Number: 0584-0336.

Form Number: Not a form.

Expiration Date: 6/30/96.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to develop an emergency food stamp program to address the temporary food needs of families following a disaster. The information collection under this notice is required to be provided by households in order to determine eligibility for emergency food stamp benefits as the result of the disaster.

The number of disasters that occur annually and the average number of households affected cannot be accurately predicted. When the estimate for OMB No. 0584-0336 was approved on June 25, 1995, an annual average of two States were predicted to be hit with a disaster, with an estimated number of affected households of 4,000 and burden hours of 2,789. These estimates represent an average based on disaster food stamp participation reports for a total of five disasters that occurred in 1989, 1990, and 1991.

In reviewing the number of disasters for the last three years, we found the number of disasters had increased dramatically. In 1992 there were five disasters and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 70 to 206,735. In 1993, there were three disasters and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 5,307 to 17,741. In 1994, there were three disasters, and the number of disaster-affected households ranged from 897 to 242,834. Due to the increase in the number of disasters and disaster-affected households, we realized that the June 1993 reporting burden was no longer accurate. We calculated the reporting hours for FY 95 based on disaster reports for the years 1990 to 1995. Based on this data, the average number of respondents has increased from 4,000 to 115,475. Therefore, the reporting burden for FY 95 has increased to 48,114 hours. We expect