

estimate that the number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers to be 19,297,500 annually—providing for a reduction of 1,452,500 (or seven percent) annual responses, and a total annual burden hours calculated to be 385,950 hours. The estimated reduction of respondents and annual burden hours is based on a projected decrease in the number of authorized retailers participating in the Food Stamp Program, and a decrease in the number of RCs processed as a result of fewer authorized retailers accepting paper food coupons due to the increased use of the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system.

As a result of the Agency name change, the forms will be changed to reflect the new Agency name when our inventory records indicate that stock on hand is low and needs replenishment.

Affected Public: Businesses, wholesale food concerns, or other-not-for-profit financial institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 176,928.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 109.06979.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 19,297,500.

Estimate of Burden: Estimated to average .020 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 385,950 hours.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

Yvette S. Jackson,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 98-9416 Filed 4-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Implementation of a New Official Moisture Meter

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is announcing the selection of a new official moisture meter; i.e., a device approved by GIPSA for determining the moisture content of grain inspected under the United States Grain Standards Act. Specifically, the Grain Analysis Computer Model 2100 (GAC 2100), manufactured by Dickey-john Corporation, Auburn, Illinois, has been selected by GIPSA to replace the Motomco Model 919 Moisture Meter. The new moisture meter is expected to improve the ease, speed, and reliability

of official moisture measurement and to allow automated measurements and electronic transmission of results.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven N. Tanner, Director, Technical Services Division, GIPSA, USDA, 10383 N. Executive Hills Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64153; telephone (816) 891-0401; fax (816) 891-0478.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), acting through the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, issued a solicitation on May 15, 1997, for the purpose of selecting and procuring new official moisture meters. GIPSA uses a single technology for all official moisture measurements because research has demonstrated that the use of multiple technologies would result in significant uncorrectable differences between official inspection points. This is true even if the different technologies have comparable accuracy with respect to the USDA air oven reference method. Therefore, the moisture meter selected from this solicitation will replace the current official moisture meter model, the Motomco Model 919.

GIPSA evaluated the received proposals according to the criteria specified in the solicitation. The criteria included potential range of grain types for which the instrument could be used; the range of moisture over which it exhibited acceptable accuracy; its potential to be used for measurement of other grading factors; its ability to operate in the temperature, vibrational, and electromagnetic environment typical of a grain inspection point; time and sample size required for measurements; ease of use; instrument self-checking capabilities; manufacturer's quality control plan and error analysis; degree of expected variation between measurements from different instruments of the same model; proposed procedures for checking the performance of field instruments against a master instrument (check-testing); and cost to the government. GIPSA surveyed current users of the instruments and conducted field tests of existing instruments at several different locations.

Implementation of the new instruments for official measurements of grains, oilseeds, and processed commodities will be phased in, product by product, over a period of at least 2 years. For any given product, all official moisture measurements will be performed using the Motomco Model 919 until the transition date for that product; the GAC 2100 will be used exclusively thereafter. The transition

date for each product will be announced by GIPSA through a Notice in the **Federal Register** prior to the transition. Transition dates for each product will be selected to minimize the impact of the changes on the value of carry-over stocks and will be announced in advance. Tentative transition dates are as follows: August 1, 1998—corn, soybeans, and sunflower seeds; May 1, 1999—barley, oats, rough rices, sorghum, and all wheats. Transition dates for peas, beans, lentils, and other commodities may lie beyond 1999.

The GAC 2100 uses separate calibration equations for each grain type to achieve optimum accuracy. GIPSA routinely reviews the accuracy of official calibrations and revises calibration equations to optimize accuracy with respect to the USDA air oven method. All GAC 2100 calibration equations will be carefully reviewed for accuracy based on several years' crop data. Where accuracy can be improved, calibrations will be adjusted prior to issuing them as official calibrations.

Both the Motomco Model 919 and the GAC 2100 are calibrated to the USDA air oven method. Therefore, the overall average change in moisture results between the instruments should be quite small. The substantial differences in measurement methods between the two instrument types will, however, cause moisture measurements to differ for the two instruments on specific samples. It is impossible to predict exactly what the differences between Motomco Model 919 and GAC 2100 results will be for a given grain sample. Most results should agree within plus or minus 0.5 percent moisture, but some differences will exceed plus or minus 1.0 percent moisture.

GIPSA is currently reviewing Part 801 of the regulations, "Official Performance Requirements For Grain Inspection Equipment". Changes to the regulations will be published as appropriate and necessary.

GIPSA anticipates several important benefits from the new moisture meter. The new instrument's speed and ease of operation will help to hold down inspection costs. The instrument will increase confidence in official moisture results by eliminating most of the operator interactions in the moisture measurement process. Electronic transmission of results and adaptability to automated operation will contribute to improving the timeliness and value of official inspections. The instrument's newer technology and built-in system checks will improve reliability, reduce down-time, and automatically notify the operator of potential performance problems.

GIPSA's decision to approve and adopt the GAC 2100 as the new official moisture meter does not mean that the Agency endorses or recommends this instrument for unofficial purposes over other similar instruments that are not approved for the official system. The Agency's selection of this instrument was based on GIPSA's unique operational needs. Other instrument models may be as suitable or more suitable for a commercial entity's needs.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*)

Dated: April 2, 1998.

David R. Shipman,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-9417 Filed 4-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

DATE AND TIME Friday, April 17, 1998, 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street, N.W., Room 540, Washington, DC 20425.

STATUS:

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 1998 Meeting
- III. Announcements
- IV. Staff Director's Report
- V. State Advisory Committee Appointment for Texas
- VI. State Advisory Committee Reports
 - "Race Relations in Rural Western Kansas Towns" (Kansas)
 - "Focus on Affirmative Action" (Minnesota)
- VII. 1993 Los Angeles Racial and Ethnic Tensions Hearing Executive Summary
- VIII. 1996 Los Angeles Racial and Ethnic Tensions Hearing Report
- IX. Future Agenda Items
 - 11:00 a.m. Briefing on Schools and Religion Project

CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER

INFORMATION: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications (202) 376-8312.

Stephanie Y. Moore,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-9474 Filed 4-6-98; 4:51 pm]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-489-501]

Notice of Preliminary Results and Partial Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Canned Pineapple Fruit From Thailand

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

SUMMARY: In response to requests by four producers/exporters of subject merchandise and by the petitioners,¹ the Department of Commerce is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on canned pineapple fruit from Thailand. This review covers seven producers/exporters of the subject merchandise. The period of review is July 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997.

We preliminarily determine that sales have been made below normal value. If these preliminary results are adopted in our final results, we will instruct the U.S. Customs Service to assess antidumping duties based on the difference between the export price or constructed export price and the normal value.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the preliminary results. Parties who submit arguments are requested to submit with each argument: (1) a statement of the issue; and (2) a brief summary of the argument.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 9, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Riggle or Kris Campbell, AD/CVD Enforcement Group I, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0650 or (202) 482-3813, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to the regulations provided in 19 CFR Part 351, as published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 1997 (62 FR 27296).

¹ Maui Pineapple Co. Ltd. and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Background

On July 18, 1995, we published in the **Federal Register** the antidumping duty order on canned pineapple fruit from Thailand (60 FR 36775). On July 21, 1997, we published in the **Federal Register** the notice of Opportunity to Request an Administrative Review of this order, covering the period July 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997 (62 FR 38973). On July 31, 1997, the petitioners requested a review of 26 producers/exporters of canned pineapple fruit (CPF), in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b)(1). On August 22, 1997, the petitioners withdrew their request for review for all companies except: (1) The Prachuab Fruit Canning Co. Ltd. (Prachuab); (2) Vita Food Factory (1989) Co. Ltd. (Vita); and (3) Siam Fruit Canning (1988) Co. Ltd. (SIFCO).

On July 31, 1997, the following producers/exporters of canned pineapple fruit requested a review in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b)(2): (1) Siam Food Products Public Co. Ltd. (SFP); (2) Thai Pineapple Canning Industry (TPC); (3) The Thai Pineapple Public Co. Ltd. (TIPCO); (4) Malee Sampran Factory Public Co. Ltd. (Malee); and (5) Dole Food Company Inc., Dole Packaged Foods Company and Dole Thailand Ltd. (collectively, Dole).

On August 28, 1997, we published the notice of initiation of this antidumping duty administrative review covering the period July 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997 (62 FR 45621).

Partial Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

On October 6, 1997, Dole withdrew its request for a review. Because there was no other request for a review of Dole, and because Dole's letter withdrawing its request for a review was timely filed, we are rescinding the review with respect to Dole in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(d)(1).

Scope of the Review

The product covered by this review is canned pineapple fruit. For purposes of the review, CPF is defined as pineapple processed and/or prepared into various product forms, including rings, pieces, chunks, tidbits, and crushed pineapple, that is packed and cooked in metal cans with either pineapple juice or sugar syrup added. CPF is currently classifiable under subheadings 2008.20.0010 and 2008.20.0090 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). HTSUS 2008.20.0010 covers CPF packed in a sugar-based syrup; HTSUS 2008.20.0090 covers CPF packed without added sugar (i.e., juice-packed). Although these