

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

October 3, 2008.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA Submission* @OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 235 State Administrative Expense Funds.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0067.

Summary of Collection: Because the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is accountable for State Administrative Expense (SAE) funds by fiscal year, State Agencies (SAs) are requested to report their SAE budget information on that basis. If the State budgets coincide with a fiscal year other than that used by the Federal government, the SA must convert its State budget figures to amounts to be used during the applicable Federal fiscal year for this purpose. In 7 CFR Part 235, State Administrative Expense Funds, there are five reporting requirements, which necessitate the collection of information. They are as follows: SAE Plan, Reallocation Report, Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) Data Base Update, Report of SAE Funds Usage, and Responses to Sanctions. SAs also must maintain records pertaining to SAE. These include Ledger Accounts, Source Documents, Equipment Records and Record on State Appropriated Funds. FNS will collect information using forms FNS-74 and 525.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information on the total SAE cost the SA expects to incur in the course of administering the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP); the indirect cost rate used by the SA in charging indirect cost to SAE, together with the name of the Federal agency that assigned the rate and the date the rate was assigned; breakdown of the current year's SAE budget between the amount allocated for the current year and the amount carried over from the prior year; and the number and types of personnel currently employed in administering the CNPs. The information is used to determine whether SA intends to use SAE funds for purposes allowable under OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State and Local Governments; does SA's administrative budget provide for sufficient funding from State sources to meet the Maintenance of Effort requirement; and is SA's staff adequate to effectively administer the programs covered by the SA's agreement with FNS.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 87.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 13,913.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-23882 Filed 10-7-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0045]

General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan; Intent To Renew

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to renew the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (Committee) for a 2-year period. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the Committee is necessary and in the public interest.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Andrew R. Rhorer, Senior Coordinator, National Poultry Improvement Plan, VS, APHIS, USDA, Suite 101, 1498 Klondike Road, Conyers, GA 30094; (770) 922-3496.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the General Conference Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (Committee) is to maintain and ensure industry involvement in Federal administration of matters pertaining to poultry health.

The Committee Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee from among its members. There are seven members on the Committee. This committee differs somewhat from other advisory committees in the selection process and composition of its membership. The poultry industry elects the members of the Committee. The members represent six geographic areas with one member-at-large. The membership is not subject to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

review. A formal request for nominations for membership is published in the **Federal Register**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of September 2008.

Boyd K. Rutherford,

Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-23854 Filed 10-7-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0119]

Implementation of Revised Lacey Act Provisions

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the Lacey Act to provide, among other things, that importers submit a declaration at the time of importation for certain plants and plant products. The declaration requirements of the Lacey Act become effective on December 15, 2008. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public about the new Lacey Act provisions, particularly the declaration requirements and the Federal Government's plan to implement and enforce the declaration requirements.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before December 8, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS=2008=0119> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send two copies of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0119, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0119.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday

through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alex Belano, Assistant Branch Chief, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Lacey Act, first enacted in 1900 and significantly amended in 1981, is the United States' oldest wildlife protection statute. The Act combats trafficking in "illegal" wildlife, fish, and plants. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective May 22, 2008, amended the Lacey Act by expanding its protection to a broader range of plants and plant products (Section 8204. Prevention of Illegal Logging Practices). As of May 22, 2008, the Lacey Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of the laws of the United States, a State, an Indian tribe, or any foreign law that protects plants. The Lacey Act also now makes it unlawful to make or submit any false record, account or label for, or any false identification of, any plant covered by the Act.

In addition, Section 3 of the Lacey Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3372), makes it unlawful, beginning December 15, 2008, to import certain plants and plant products without an import declaration. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working with a larger interagency group composed of representatives from U.S. Forest Service, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Council on Environmental Quality, and Department of Commerce, to implement the new provisions.

Under the amended Lacey Act, beginning December 15, 2008, importers are required to submit a declaration for certain plants and plant products. The declaration must contain, among other things, the scientific name of the plant, value of the importation, quantity of the plant, and name of the country from

which the plant was harvested. For paper and paperboard products with recycled plant content, the importer will not be required to specify the species or country of harvest with respect to the recycled plant product component, but will be required to provide the average percent recycled content. If the product also contains non-recycled plant materials, the basic declaration requirements still apply to that component of the product imported. For plant products (as opposed to plants), if the plant species from which they are made varies and are unknown, importers will have to declare the name of each species that may have been used to produce the product. Similarly, if a plant product is made of plant species commonly harvested in more than one country, and the country is unknown, the importer will be required to declare the name of each country from which the plant may have been harvested.

Violations of the Lacey Act provisions may be prosecuted in three basic ways: (1) Civil—monetary penalties; (2) criminal—fines and penalties and potential incarceration; or (3) forfeiture—dispossession of the plant, fish, or wildlife in question.

Scope of Plants and Plant Products Covered

Under the Lacey Act, as amended, "Plant" means: "Any wild member of the plant kingdom, including roots, seeds, parts or product thereof, and including trees from either natural or planted forest stands." There are three categorical exemptions:

1. Common cultivars, except trees, and common food crops (including roots, seeds, parts, or products thereof);
2. Scientific specimens of plant genetic material (including roots, seeds, germplasm, parts, or products thereof) that are to be used only for laboratory or field research;
3. Plants that are to remain planted or to be planted or replanted.

The amendments, including the declaration requirements, still apply for items described under 2 and 3 if the plant is listed:

- In an appendix to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249) (CITES);

- As an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (ESA); or

- Pursuant to any State law that provides for the conservation of species that are indigenous to the State and are threatened with extinction.

All covered plants and plant products will require an import declaration,