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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

August 2, 2017.

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 are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 regarding this information collection received by September 6, 2017 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. 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.

Office of Advocacy and Outreach

Title: USDA/HSI Scholars Program Applications.

OMB Control Number: 0503-New.

Summary of Collection: The purpose of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Scholars Program is to strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the HSIs; to increase the number of students studying and graduating in food, agriculture, natural resources, and other related fields of study, to develop a pool of scientists and professionals to fill jobs in the food, agricultural, natural resources system; and to create a talent pipeline for USDA. The USDA/HSI Scholars Program is a joint human capital initiative between the USDA and Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Through the program, USDA will offer scholarships to high school and college students who are seeking a bachelor's degree in the field of agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences and related disciplines at Hispanic-Serving Institutions. The USDA/HSI Scholars Program will offer scholarships and internships for a period of up to 4 years. The authority to collect this information is under 5 CFR 213.3102(r).

Need and Use of the Information: Information will be collected to determine the eligibility of applicants to the USDA/HSI Scholars Program. Each applicant to the program will be required to apply to announcements of the USDA/HSI Scholars Program and submit an application with required documentation. The required documentation will include: (1) A resume; (2) Proof of acceptance or enrollment in school, a letter of acceptance, or proof of registration, or letter from school official on official letterhead; (3) A copy of the last high school or college transcript; and (4) Two letters of recommendation. The collected information is needed to review all components of the application for completeness; and determine if the application meets the minimum eligibility requirements to be considered for the USDA/HSI Scholars

Program. Also the collected information will be used to determine if the applicants are a good fit for the university and agency based on their proposed major, interest, future academic/professional goals, and grade point average. Without the information the USDA/HSI Scholars Program would not be able to function consistently.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 600.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 600.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-16544 Filed 8-4-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3412-88-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Annual Business Survey (ABS)

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

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.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before October 6, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at PRAComments@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Patrice Norman, U.S. Census Bureau, EWD, 8K151, Washington, DC 20233-6600, (301) 763-7198, Patrice.C.Norman@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau, with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), plans to conduct the Annual Business Survey (ABS) for the 2017–2021 survey years. The ABS is a new survey designed to combine Census Bureau firm-level collections to reduce respondent burden, increase data quality, reduce operational costs, and operate more efficiently. The ABS replaces the five-year Survey of Business Owners (SBO) for employer businesses, the Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs (ASE), and the Business R&D and Innovation for Microbusinesses (BRDI–M) surveys. The Survey of Business Owners has been conducted as part of the economic census every five years since 1972 to collect selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status for both employer and nonemployer businesses. The Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs was conducted for three reference years (2014, 2015, and 2016) as a supplement to the SBO to provide more frequent data on economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status for employer businesses. The Business R&D and Innovation for Microbusinesses survey was first fielded in 2016 as an expansion to the Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDI–S) to measure firm innovation and investigate the incidence of R&D activities in growing sectors, such as small business enterprises not covered by BRDIS. Detailed R&D information for businesses with 10 or more employees will continue to be collected separately on the BRDIS. Statistics from the new ABS will be used by government program officials, industry organization leaders, economic and social analysts, business entrepreneurs, and domestic and foreign researchers in academia, business, and government. Estimates produced on owner demographic data may be used to assess business assistance needs, allocate available program resources, and create a framework for planning, directing, and assessing programs that promote the activities of disadvantaged groups; to assess minority-owned businesses by industry and area and to educate industry associations, corporations, and government entities; to analyze business operations in comparison to similar firms, compute market share, and assess business growth and future prospects. Estimates produced on research and development

and innovation may be used to compare R&D costs across industries, determine where R&D activity is conducted geographically, and identify the types of businesses with R&D; to contribute to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) system of national accounts; to increase investments in research and development, strengthen education, and encourage entrepreneurship; and to compare business innovation in the United States to that of other countries.

The ABS covers all domestic, nonfarm employer businesses with operations during the survey year. The ABS will provide the only comprehensive data on business owner demographics and business characteristics, including financing, research and development (for microbusinesses), and innovation. Nonemployer businesses are not in scope for the ABS. The Census Bureau will submit a separate clearance for approval to collect business and owner characteristics from nonemployer businesses if it is determined that a collection is needed to produce those estimates. The ABS will collect the following information from employer businesses:

- Owner characteristics, including the gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status of the principal owner(s) from all firms in the sample
- Various business characteristics, including financing from all firms in the sample
- Research and development activity and costs from firms with less than 10 employees
- Innovation practices from all firms in the sample

Additional owner topics include military service, owner acquisition, job functions, number of hours worked, primary income, prior business ownership, age of owner, education and field of degree, citizenship and place of birth, and owner's reason for owning the business. Other business topics include number of owners and percent ownership, family owned and operated, business aspirations, funding sources, profitability, types of customers, types of workers, employee benefits, home operation, Web site use, and business activity. Starting with the 2018 survey, the ABS may include new module questions each year based on relevant business topics. Potential topics include technological advances, Internet usage, management and business practices, exporting practices, and globalization.

The draft content for the ABS will be cognitively tested with approximately 20 businesses under a separate OMB generic clearance. The questionnaire and interview protocol will be used to assess the feasibility and merit of

suggested changes that arise from the testing.

The 2017 ABS will sample approximately 850,000 employer businesses to produce more detailed statistics. Annually from 2018–2021, the survey sample will be reduced to approximately 300,000 businesses to reduce respondent burden. Businesses that reported business activity on Internal Revenue Service tax forms 941, “Employer’s Quarterly Federal Tax Return”; 944, “Employer’s Annual Federal Tax Return”; or any one of the 1120 corporate tax forms will be eligible for selection.

II. Method of Collection

The ABS will be collected using only electronic instruments. Respondents will receive a letter notifying them of their requirement to respond and how to access the survey. Letters will be mailed from the Census Bureau’s National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Responses will be due approximately 30 days from receipt. Select businesses will receive a due date reminder via a letter prior to the due date. Additionally, two mail follow-ups to nonrespondents will be conducted at approximately one-month intervals. Select nonrespondents will receive a certified mailing for the second follow-up if needed.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–XXXX.
Form Number(s): This electronic-only collection will not utilize paper forms.
Type of Review: Regular submission.
Affected Public: Large and small employer businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 850,000 employer businesses for 2017; 300,000 employer businesses for 2018–2021.

Estimated Time per Response: 35 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 495,833 for 2017; 175,000 for 2018–2021.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

Respondent’s Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 8(b), 131, and 182; and Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1861–76 (National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended).

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.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Lead, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-16605 Filed 8-4-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-992]

Monosodium Glutamate From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results of the Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2015-2016

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on monosodium glutamate (MSG) from the People's Republic of China (PRC) covering the period of review (POR) November 1, 2015, through October 31, 2016. This review covers 27 manufacturers/exporters (the companies) of the subject merchandise. Because none of these companies filed a separate rate application (SRA) and/or a separate rate certification (SRC), the Department preliminarily finds that the companies are part of the PRC-wide entity. We invite interested parties to comment on these preliminary results.

DATES: Applicable August 7, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chien-Min Yang, AD/CVD Operations, Office VII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone at (202) 482-5484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 4, 2016, the Department published a notice of opportunity to request an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on MSG from the PRC.¹ In response, on November 29, 2016, Ajinomoto North America, Inc. (the petitioner) requested a review of 27 companies.² The Department initiated a review of all 27 companies on January 13, 2017.³ For a list of these companies, please see Appendix I. The deadline for interested parties to submit an SRA or an SRC was February 13, 2017.⁴ No party timely submitted an SRA or an SRC. Thereafter, the petitioner submitted comments on the Department's selection of respondents, encouraging the Department to employ its customary policy to treat companies as a part of the country-wide entity in reviews where no party submits an SRA or SRC.⁵

Scope of the Order

The product covered by this order is MSG, whether or not blended or in solution with other products. Specifically, MSG that has been blended or is in solution with other product(s) is included in this scope when the resulting mix contains 15 percent or more of MSG by dry weight. Products with which MSG may be blended include, but are not limited to, salts, sugars, starches, maltodextrins, and various seasonings. Further, MSG is included in this order regardless of physical form (including, but not limited to, in monohydrate or anhydrous form, or as substrates, solutions, dry powders of any particle size, or unfinished forms such as MSG slurry), end-use application, or packaging. MSG in monohydrate form has a molecular formula of $C_5H_8NO_4Na \cdot H_2O$, a Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) registry number of 6106-04-3, and a Unique Ingredient Identifier (UNII) number of W81N5U6R6U. MSG in anhydrous form has a molecular formula of $C_5H_8NO_4Na$, a CAS registry number of 142-47-2, and a UNII number of C3C196L9FG. Merchandise covered by the scope of this order is currently

classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheading 2922.42.10.00. Merchandise subject to the order may also enter under HTS subheadings 2922.42.50.00, 2103.90.72.00, 2103.90.74.00, 2103.90.78.00, 2103.90.80.00, and 2103.90.90.91. The tariff classifications, CAS registry numbers, and UNII numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes; however, the written description of the scope is dispositive.⁶

Methodology

The Department is conducting this review in accordance with section 751(a)(1)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and 19 CFR 351.213.

Preliminary Results of Review

The Department's policy regarding conditional review of the PRC-wide entity applies to this administrative review.⁷ Under this policy, the PRC-wide entity will not be under review unless a party specifically requests, or the Department self-initiates, a review of the entity. The Department preliminarily determines that the 27 companies subject to review are part of the PRC-wide entity. None of the 27 companies filed an SRA or an SRC. No review has been requested for the PRC-wide entity. Therefore, the Department preliminarily determines that these companies have not demonstrated their eligibility for separate rate status and are part of the PRC-wide entity. The PRC-wide entity rate is 40.41 percent.⁸

Public Comment

Interested parties are invited to comment on the preliminary results and may submit case briefs and/or written comments, filed electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS), within 30 days after the date of publication of these preliminary results of review.⁹ ACCESS is available to registered users at <http://access.trade.gov> and is available to all

⁶ See *Monosodium Glutamate from the People's Republic of China: Second Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Amended Antidumping Order*, 80 FR 487 (January 6, 2015).

⁷ See *Antidumping Proceedings: Announcement of Change in Department Practice for Respondent Selection in Antidumping Duty Proceedings and Conditional Review of the Nonmarket Economy Entity in NME Antidumping Duty Proceedings*, 78 FR 65963, 65970 (November 4, 2013).

⁸ See *Monosodium Glutamate from the People's Republic of China: Second Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Amended Antidumping Duty Order*, 80 FR 487 (January 6, 2015).

⁹ See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(ii).

¹ See *Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity To Request Administrative Review*, 81 FR 76920 (November 4, 2016).

² See Ajinomoto's letter, "Monosodium Glutamate from China: Request for Administrative Review," (November 29, 2016), at attachment 1 which lists 27 companies for which Ajinomoto sought a review.

³ See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 82 FR 4294 (January 13, 2017) (*Initiation Notice*).

⁴ See *Initiation Notice*.

⁵ See Ajinomoto's letter, "MSG from China: Comments on Respondent Selection," (February 15, 2017).