

subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10 and 2106.90.44, during any fiscal year, shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount (expressed in terms of raw value), less than 22,000 metric tons, as shall be established by the Secretary. With either the aggregate quantity for raw cane sugar or the aggregate quantity for syrups, sugars and molasses other than raw cane sugar, the Secretary may reserve a quota quantity for the importation of specialty sugars as defined by the United States Trade Representative.

These provisions of paragraph (a)(i) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the total amounts (expressed in terms of raw value) for imports of raw cane sugar and certain other sugars, syrups, and molasses that may be entered under the subheadings of the HTS subject to the lower tier of duties of the tariff-rate quotas for entry during the fiscal year beginning October 1.

The Secretary issued a proposal for the 1997 fiscal year tariff-rate quota on August 13, 1996, and invited comments from interested persons. Approximately 40 comments were received and were considered.

Allocations of the quota amounts among supplying countries and areas will be made by the United States Trade Representative.

Notice

Notice is hereby given that I have determined, in accordance with paragraph (a) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS, that an aggregate quantity of up to 2,300,000 metric tons, raw value, of raw cane sugar described in subheading 1701.11.10 of the HTS may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during the period from October 1, 1996, through September 30, 1997. Of this quantity, 1,700,000 metric tons will be immediately available, to be allocated by the United States Trade Representative, and the remaining 600,000 metric tons will be held in reserve.

If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the January 1997 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) is equal to, or less than 15.5 percent, the United States Trade Representative will allocate an additional 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar. If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the January 1997 WASDE is greater than 15.5 percent, 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be automatically cancelled without further notice.

If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the March 1997 WASDE is equal to, or

less than 15.5 percent, the United States Trade Representative will allocate an additional 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar. If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the March 1997 WASDE is greater than 15.5 percent, 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be automatically cancelled without further notice.

If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the May 1997 WASDE is equal to, or less than, 15.5 percent, the United States Trade Representative will allocate an additional 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar. If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the May 1997 WASDE is greater than 15.5 percent, 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be automatically cancelled without further notice.

I have further determined that an aggregate quantity of up to 47,000 metric tons, raw value, of certain sugars, syrups, and molasses described in subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10, and 2106.90.44 of the HTS may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during the period from October 1, 1996, through September 30, 1997. I have further determined that out of this quantity of 47,000 metric tons, the quantity of 1,656 metric tons, raw value, is reserved for the importation of specialty sugars. These quota amounts may be allocated among supplying countries and areas by the United States Trade Representative.

Interested parties are further notified that shipping patterns will be established for imports of raw cane sugar from the Dominican Republic, Brazil and the Philippines. Imports from each of these countries during the first quarter of the fiscal year may not exceed 25 percent of the quantity allocated to such country, nor more than 50 percent of such allocations prior to April 1, 1997, nor more than 75 percent of such allocations prior to July 1, 1997.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on September 27, 1996.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

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Forest Service

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for Bid Form for National Forest System Timber for Sale

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection. The information is necessary to determine if a bidder, submitting a bid to the National Forest System timber sale program, meets the requirements for the program.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before December 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Director, Timber Management (2430), Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Naylor, Timber Management Staff, at (202) 205-0858.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2400-42a—Bid Form for Advertised National Forest System Timber.

OMB Number: 0596-0066.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 1997.

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

Abstract: The data collected are used by the agency to ensure that National Forest System timber is sold at not less than appraised value, that bidders meet specific criteria when submitting a bid, and that anti-trust violations do not occur during the bidding process. Respondents are bidders on National Forest System timber sales. Forest Service Sale Officers mail bid forms to potential bidders, and bidders return the completed forms, dated and signed, to the Forest Service Sale Officer. Each bidder must include the following: the price bid for the timber, an address, and a tax identification number. The tax identification number of each bidder is entered into an automated bid monitoring system, which is used to determine if speculative bidding or bid collusion is occurring. The tax identification number is also used to facilitate electronic payments to the purchaser. Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 10 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations bidding on National Forest timber sales.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,250 hours.

The agency invites comments on the following: (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; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 26, 1996.

David G. Unger,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 96-25365 Filed 10-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Timely Service and Open Season Pilot Programs

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA is currently running two pilot programs, "timely service" and "open season," under one of the 1993 amendments to the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act). This amendment provides that GIPSA may conduct pilot programs allowing more than one official agency to provide official services within a single geographic area. GIPSA started the two pilot programs on November 1, 1995, and they will end on October 31, 1996. Effective November 1, 1996, GIPSA is extending both the "timely service" and "open season" pilot programs to October 31, 1999, to collect and analyze additional information. In addition, GIPSA is modifying the "open season"

pilot program to allow more open participation. GIPSA also is considering other pilot programs or program changes intended to address the concerns of both the grain industry and official agencies and will announce and solicit comments on any such proposals at a later date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Neil E. Porter, Director, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604. Internet and GroupWise users may respond to nporter@fgisd.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neil E. Porter, telephone 202-720-8262.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Sections 7(f) and 7A of the Act was amended by the U.S. Grain Standards Act Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103-156) on November 24, 1993, to authorize GIPSA's Administrator to conduct pilot programs allowing more than one official agency to provide official services within a single geographic area without undermining the declared policy of the Act. The purpose of the pilot programs is to evaluate the impact of allowing more than one official agency to provide official services within a single geographic area.

GIPSA considered several possible pilot programs as announced in the March 14, 1994, Federal Register (59 FR 11759) and the March 10, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 13113). In the September 27, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 49828), GIPSA announced the following two pilot programs starting on November 1, 1995, and ending on October 31, 1996.

1. **Timely Service.** This pilot program allows official agencies to provide official services to facilities outside their assigned geographic area on a case-by-case basis when these official services cannot be provided in a timely manner by the official agency designated to serve that area.

2. **Open Season.** This pilot program allows official agencies an open season during which they may offer their services to facilities outside their assigned geographic area where no official sample-lot or official weighing services have been provided in the previous 6 months.

GIPSA has evaluated these two pilot programs and discussed them with official agency and grain industry representatives. Grain industry representatives contacted unanimously support continuing these two pilot programs. Some said that service improved after the pilot programs were proposed. Others commented that the

"open season" 6-month waiting period should be eliminated or reduced.

Official agency comments ranged from no significant objection to continuation of the pilot programs, to opposition to any pilot programs because they would have an adverse impact on the integrity of the official inspection system.

GIPSA believes that there has been no adverse impact on the official inspection system by the "timely service" pilot program, and in view of the comments received, is extending the "timely service" pilot program to October 31, 1999, to provide GIPSA with additional information. The "timely service" provisions would remain the same as announced in the September 27, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 49828).

GIPSA also believes that the "open season" pilot program has had no adverse impact on the official inspection system and in view of grain industry comments and recognizing official agency concerns, is modifying and extending the "open season" pilot program until to October 31, 1999, to provide GIPSA with additional information. Under the revised "open season" program, official agencies would be able to offer their services to facilities outside their assigned geographic area where no official sample-lot or official weighing services have been provided in the previous 3 months. This should allow more participation in the program. Under the current pilot program, no official sample-lot or official weighing services could have been provided in the previous 6 months. The other "open season" provisions will remain the same as announced in the September 27, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 49828).

GIPSA will continue to monitor and evaluate the "timely service" and "open season" programs. If, at any time, GIPSA determines that either program is having a negative impact on the official system or is not working as intended, the programs may be modified or discontinued.

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

Dated: September 27, 1996

Neil E. Porter

Director, Compliance Division

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