

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of USDA's Biological Control Documentation Program dealing with documenting the importation and release of foreign biological control agents.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 17, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Jack R. Coulson, Director, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, National Program Staff, National Agricultural Library, ARS, USDA, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2330, (301) 504-6350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: USDA Biological Shipment Record—Beneficial Organisms.

OMB Number: 0518-0013.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1999.

Type of Request: To extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the Biological Control Documentation Program is to record the importation (AD-941), release from quarantine (AD-942), and shipment and/or field release/

recolonization (AD-942 and AD-943) of foreign/introduced beneficial organisms (biological control agents and pollinators). The information collected is entered into the USDA "Releases of Beneficial Organisms in the United States and Territories" (ROBO) database, established in 1984. It is a cooperative program among USDA and other federal agencies, state governmental agencies, and U.S. universities. The use of the forms and the information provided is voluntary. The program is for the benefit of biological control research and action agency personnel, taxonomists, federal and state regulatory agencies, agricultural administrators, and the general public. Efforts are underway to replace the paper forms with computerized information collection, and when completed, only those units for which computerized input is not possible would use the forms.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1/12 hour per response.

Non-Federal Respondents: Non-profit institutions, universities, and state and local governments.

Estimated Number of Non-Federal Respondents: 100.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: An average of 3 (range 1-60).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 25 hours.

Copies of the 3 forms used in this information collection can be obtained from Jack R. Coulson, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, at (301) 504-6350.

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 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; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques or

other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Jack R. Coulson, Director, ARS Biological Control Documentation Center, National Program Staff, ARS, USDA, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-2350.

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.

Signed at Beltsville, MD, February 26, 1999.

Judy St John,

Associate Deputy Administrator, Plant Sciences, National Program Staff, Agricultural Research Service Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 99-5952 Filed 3-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-014N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex): Meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, United States Department of Health and Human Services are sponsoring a public meeting on March 16, 1999, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Food Labelling Committee of Codex, which will be held in Ottawa, Canada, April 27-30, 1999. The co-sponsors of the March 16 public meeting recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the Twenty-seventh Session of the Food Labelling Committee of Codex and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 1999, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 1813 Federal Office

Building 8, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC. To register for the meeting, contact Ms. Theresa Thomas by telephone at (202) 205-4210 or by FAX at (202) 205-4594 no later than March 10, 1999. If a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is necessary, contact Ms. Thomas at the above telephone number. Submit one original and two copies of comments to the FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket No. 99-014N, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be considered part of the public record and will be available for viewing in the Docket Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Clerkin, Associate U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700, Phone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled.

The Codex Committee on Food Labelling was established to draft provisions on labelling applicable to all foods; to consider, amend if necessary, and endorse draft specific provisions on labelling prepared by the Codex Committees drafting standards, codes of practice and guidelines; to study specific labelling problems assigned to it by the Commission; and to study problems associated with the advertisement of food with particular reference to claims and misleading descriptions. Issues to be discussed at the March 16, 1999, public meeting:

1. Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex committees
2. Draft guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods

3. Draft amendment to the general standard for the labelling of prepackaged foods (25% Rule)
4. Proposed draft recommendations for the labelling of foods obtained through biotechnology
5. Proposed draft amendment to the general standard (class names)
6. Proposed draft amendment to the guidelines on nutrition labelling
7. Proposed draft recommendations for the use of health claims
8. Proposed draft guidelines for sport and energy drinks
9. Proposed draft guidelines for the use of the term vegetarian

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex.

[FR Doc. 99-5850 Filed 3-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-549-813]

Canned Pineapple Fruit from Thailand: Notice of Extension of Time Limits for Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 10, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Riggle or Kris Campbell, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-0650 and (202) 482-3813, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Postponement of Preliminary Results

On August 27, 1998, the Department of Commerce initiated the third administrative review of the antidumping duty order on canned pineapple fruit from Thailand, covering the period July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998 (63 FR 45796). The current deadline for the preliminary results of this review is April 2, 1999. Section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"), requires the Department to make a preliminary determination in an administrative review within 245 days after the last day of the anniversary month of an order for which a review is requested. However, if it is not practicable to complete the review within the time period, section 751(a)(3)(A) allows the Department to extend this time period to up to 365 days.

We determine that it is not practicable to complete this review within the original time frame because this review involves collecting and analyzing information from a large number of companies, including investigating sales below the cost of production for several companies. Although section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act allows for an extension of up to 120 days, we believe at this time that only a limited extension of the deadline is necessary to analyze the complex legal and methodological issues involved in this case. Accordingly, the Department is extending the time limit for completion of the preliminary results of this administrative review by 60 days, or until June 1, 1999. We plan to issue the final results of this administrative review within 120 days after publication of the preliminary results.

This extension is in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act.

Dated: March 3, 1999.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-5941 Filed 3-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-549-807]

Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipes from Thailand; Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Time Limits

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of time limits of preliminary results of review.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is extending the time limits of the preliminary of the antidumping duty administrative review of the antidumping duty order on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand. The review covers one manufacturer/exporter of the subject merchandise to the United States for the period July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 10, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Zev Primor or Wendy Frankel, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Group II, Office IV, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone: (202) 482-4114, or (202) 482-5849, respectively.