

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

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Form FCS-250, Food Coupon Accountability Report

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on the proposed information collection. This notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of the agency's proposal to continue requiring information collection on Form FCS-250, Food Coupon Accountability Report. Section 4(c) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) provides that the Secretary issue regulations deemed necessary or appropriate for the effective and efficient administration of the Food Stamp Program (FSP). Requirements in section 7 of the Act authorize the Secretary to prescribe procedures for the accountability of food stamp coupons including delivery, monitoring the level of inventories, documentation, and security as requirements for coupon issuers and bulk storage points. Further, section 7(f) of the Act provides that State agencies shall be strictly liable to the Secretary for any financial losses involved in the acceptance, storage, and issuance of food stamp benefits. The information collected on Form FCS-250 provides data which is used in the preparation of State agency liability billings for coupon losses.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: 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 has 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to James I. Porter, Assistant Branch Chief, State Administration Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information regarding this information collection should be directed to James I. Porter, (703) 305-2385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Coupon Accountability Report.

OMB Number: 0584-0009.

Form Number: FCS-250.

Expiration Date: October 31, 1997.

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

Abstract: Pursuant to the Act, Part 274.4(b)(1) of the FSP regulations requires the completion and submission of Form FCS-250, Food Coupon Accountability Report, including supporting documentation, by coupon issuers and bulk storage points the State agencies. The monthly FCS-250 report shall reflect the beginning and end-of-month inventories, receipt and transfer of coupon shipments, coupons returned to inventory, and credits.

Affected Public: State and local governments, individuals and FSP participants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,587.

Number of Responses Per Respondent: 12.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 57,132.

Dated: July 10, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 97-18960 Filed 7-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Form FCS-135, Affidavit of Return or Exchange of Food Coupons

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. This notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approve the agency's proposal to continue requiring the use of Form FCS-135, Affidavit of Return or Exchange of Food Coupons, for another three years. Section 4(c) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) provides that the Secretary issue regulations deemed necessary or appropriate for the effective and efficient administration of the Food Stamp Program (FSP). Requirements in section 7 of the Act authorize the Secretary to prescribe procedures for food stamp benefit issuance, use, and accountability. Section 13 of the Act authorizes the Secretary to delegate to the State agencies the responsibility for establishment and collection of overissuance claims against households.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: 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 has 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to James I. Porter, Assistant Branch Chief, State Administration Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information regarding this information collection should be directed to James I. Porter, (703) 305-2385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Affidavit of Returned or Exchange of Food Coupons.

OMB Number: 0584-0052.

Form Number: FCS-135.

Expiration Date: 11/30/97.

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

Abstract: Pursuant to the Act, Part 274.6(f) of the FSP regulations provides that delivered Authorization To Participate (ATP) cards and food stamp coupons that are improperly manufactured or partially mutilated may be returned for replacement. If identifiable, such returned ATP cards and food stamp coupons shall be exchanged. Loose or intact books of food stamp coupons may be returned by participants and other individuals for a variety of circumstances: Because the coupons were found; death of a participant; overissuance; termination of participation; payment of a claim; etc. Part 273.18(j) of the FSP regulations provides that if coupon books collected from households as payment for claims are returned intact and in usable form, the coupon books may be returned to inventory. Coupon return activity, who made the return and the amount, why, and the exchange of coupons, if appropriate, are documented on Form FCS-135, Affidavit of Return or Exchange of Food Coupons. A copy of the completed form is retained by the servicing office, a copy is provided as a receipt for the returned and exchanged

coupons, and a copy is used to transmit unusable food stamp coupons to the destruction point.

Affected Public: State and local governments, individuals and FSP participants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,861.

Number of Responses Per Respondent: 7.26.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 11,642.

July 10, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 97-18961 Filed 7-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Form FCS-46, Issuance Reconciliation Report

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on the proposed information collection. This notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of the agency's proposal to continue requiring information collection on Form FCS-46, Issuance Reconciliation Report. Section 4(c) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) provides that the Secretary issue regulations deemed necessary or appropriate for the effective and efficient administration of the Food Stamp Program (FSP). Requirements in section 7 of the Act authorize the Secretary to prescribe procedures for food stamp benefit issuance, use, and accountability. Further, section 7(f) of the Act provides that State agencies shall be strictly liable to the Secretary for any financial losses involved in the acceptance, storage, and issuance of food stamp benefits. Form FCS-46 requires that State agencies report the reconciliation results from all issuance systems, for liability assessment and billing purposes.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: 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 has 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to James I. Porter, Assistant Branch Chief, State Administration Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information regarding this information collection should be directed to James I. Porter, (703) 305-2385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Issuance Reconciliation Report.

OMB Number: 0584-0080.

Form Number: FCS-46.

Expiration Date: 11/30/97.

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

Abstract: Pursuant to the Act, Part 274.4(b)(2) of the FSP regulations requires the completion and submission of Form FCS-46, Issuance Reconciliation Report, by the State agencies. The report shall identify and report the number and value of all benefit issuances that reconcile and those that do not reconcile with the record-for-issuance and/or the master issuance file. Additionally, the report shall reflect the benefits that are returned, accountable issuance documents that are stolen and transacted for benefits, replacement benefits, and obligations from the exchange of coupons.

Affected Public: State and local governments, individuals and FSP participants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 445.

Number of Responses Per Respondent: 12.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 42,720.