

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food Safety and Inspection Service****[Docket No. FSIS–2013–0004]****Notice of Request for a New Information Collection: Egg Products Industry Survey****AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing its intention to request a new information collection for a survey of the egg products industry.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before May 28, 2013.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- *Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8–163A, Washington, DC 20250–3700.

- *Hand- or courier-delivered submittals:* Deliver to Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8–163A, Washington, DC 20250–3700

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS–2013–0004. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street, Room 8–164, Washington, DC 20250–3700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John O'Connell, Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6065, South

Building, Washington, DC 20250; (202) 720–0345.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Egg Products Industry Survey.
Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: FSIS has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary (7 CFR 2.18, 2.53) as specified in the Egg Products and Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031, *et seq.*). FSIS protects the public by verifying that egg products are safe, wholesome, not adulterated, and correctly labeled.

FSIS plans to request a new information collection to conduct a new survey of official egg products plants. In 2003, FSIS conducted a survey of the egg products plants to collect information on use of food safety practices and technologies. This was part of a broader effort that also surveyed the meat and poultry slaughter and processing industries from 2003 to 2006. FSIS needs to survey the egg products industry again so that the Agency has current information on industry practices for conducting regulatory impact analyses as required by OMB.

In this currently planned survey of the egg products industry, FSIS will collect data to provide the most accurate, up-to-date information on use and adoption rates of industry practices and technologies. The Agency will ask questions similar to those asked in the previous survey, and will add new questions to address issues currently facing FSIS and industry.

The results of the egg products industry survey will provide reliable and valid information regarding food safety practices in FSIS-regulated plants; the Agency will use to this information to address many of its analytical needs. A major purpose of the survey is to enable the Agency to develop baseline information for estimating compliance costs in regulatory impact analyses. FSIS also will use the survey data to provide information for evaluating the effectiveness of its egg products inspection program and to conduct analyses to assess the industry's food safety technologies, sanitation practices, health risk reduction, and recall readiness. The Agency should be able to use this information to determine whether industry performance in these areas has improved since the previous survey was conducted.

FSIS has made the following estimates on the basis of an information collection assessment.

Estimate of Burden: FSIS estimates that it will take each respondent 30

minutes and each nonrespondent 12 minutes to participate in the survey.

Respondents: Official egg plants.
Estimated No. of Respondents: 58 respondents and 22 nonrespondents.
Estimated No. of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 33.4 hours.

Copies of this information collection assessment can be obtained from John O'Connell, Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6065, South Building, Washington, DC 20250; (202)720–0345.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS'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, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent both to FSIS, at the addresses provided above, and to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20253.

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.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202–720–2600 (voice and TTY).

To file a written complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–9410 or call 202–720–5964 (voice and TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp.

FSIS will also make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_Events/Email_Subscription/.

Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

Done at Washington, DC on: March 25, 2013.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2013-07387 Filed 3-28-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0037]

Electronic Filing of Import Inspection Applications for Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products: Availability of Draft Compliance Guide and PGA Message Set Pilot Program

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of and requesting comments on a draft compliance guide for U.S. importers and brokers on the electronic filing of import inspection applications for certain meat, poultry, and egg products through the

Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). ACE is the Web-based portal for the collection and use of international trade data maintained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). FSIS is also announcing a pilot program intended to test the transfer of data from the Participating Government Agency (PGA) Message Set in ACE to FSIS's Web-based data analytics system, the Public Health Information System (PHIS). The PGA Message Set is the data that CBP will collect electronically from U.S. importers and brokers from PGAs. This data will enable agencies to make decisions about which products can come into the U.S. without the multiple paper forms currently used. FSIS encourages U.S. importers and brokers to review the draft compliance guide and, if they are interested, to request participation in FSIS's pilot program. The Agency will consider all comments submitted and will revise the draft compliance guide as necessary.

DATES: Submit electronic or written requests to participate in the pilot program on or before May 28, 2013. Comments on the draft compliance guide should be submitted on or before June 27, 2013.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit requests to participate in the pilot program and comments on the compliance guide. Written or email requests to participate in the pilot program should be submitted to Mary Stanley, whose contact information can be found below. Comments on the compliance guide may be submitted by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- *Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy and Program Development, Risk, Innovations, and Management Division, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- *Hand-or courier-delivered submittals:* Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy and Program Development, Risk, Innovations, and Management Division, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0037. Comments received in response to this notice will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Stanley, Director, International Policy Division, Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA, South Agriculture Building, Room 2925-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington DC 20250; telephone: (202) 720-0287, fax: (202) 720-4929 or email: mary.stanley@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*) prohibit the importation of meat and poultry products into the United States if such products are adulterated or misbranded and unless they comply with all the inspection, building construction standards, and all other provisions of the Acts and regulations as are applied to domestic products (21 U.S.C. 620, 466). The Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031 *et seq.*) prohibits the importation of egg products unless they have been processed under an approved continuous inspection system of the government of the foreign country of origin and comply with all other provisions of the Act and regulations that apply to United States domestic products (U.S.C. 1046).

FSIS meat, poultry, and egg products import regulations require importers to apply for the inspection of imported product (9 CFR 327.5, 381.198, and 590.920). Applicants complete FSIS Form 9540-1, "Import Inspection Application and Report," for meat, poultry products, and egg¹ products. Until recently, the applicants gave the completed Form 9540-1 to FSIS import inspection program personnel, who entered the information from the form into the Automated Import Inspection System (AIIS), the computer system that

¹ For egg products, applicants had to submit FSIS Form 5200-8, Import Request Egg Products. The Agency has revised FSIS Form 9540-1, Import Inspection Application, to include egg products and additional information the Agency needs to accurately assigning reinspection tasks and sampling of the product.