DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service
[Docket No. FSIS–2017–0015]

Retail Exemptions Adjusted Dollar Limitations

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the dollar limitations on the amount of meat and meat food products, poultry, and poultry products that a retail store can sell to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions without disqualifying itself for exemption from Federal inspection requirements. In accordance with FSIS’s regulations, for calendar year 2017, the dollar limitation for meat and meat food products is being decreased from $79,200 to $75,700 and for poultry and poultry products from $58,200 to $56,600. FSIS is changing the dollar limitations from calendar year 2016 based on price changes for these products evidenced by the Consumer Price Index.

FSIS has provided an 18-month transitional period for mandatory inspection of Siluriformes fish and fish products. FSIS is currently considering the retail dollar limitations for this product.

DATES: Effective Date: July 3, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gina Kouba, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 6065, South Building, Washington, DC 20250; (202) 720–5627.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) provide a comprehensive statutory framework to ensure that meat, meat food products, poultry, and poultry products prepared for commerce are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. Statutory provisions requiring inspection of the processing of meat, meat food, poultry, and poultry products do not apply to operations of types traditionally and usually conducted at retail stores and restaurants in regard to products for sale to consumers in normal retail quantities (21 U.S.C. 661(c)(2) and 454(c)(2)). FSIS’s regulations (9 CFR 303.1(d) and 381.10(d)) elaborate on the conditions under which requirements for inspection do not apply to retail operations involving the preparation of meat and meat food, and processing of poultry and poultry products.

Sales to Hotels, Restaurants, and Similar Institutions

Under these regulations, sales to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions (other than household consumers) disqualify a retail store for exemption if the product sales exceed either of two maximum limits: 25 percent of the dollar value of total product sales or the calendar year dollar limitation set by the Administrator. The dollar limitation is adjusted automatically during the first quarter of the year if the Consumer Price Index (CPI), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shows an increase or decrease of more than $500 in the price of the same volume of product for the previous year. FSIS publishes a notice of the adjusted dollar limitations in the Federal Register. (See 9 CFR 303.1(d)(2)(iii)(b) and 381.10(d)(2)(iii)(b)).

The CPI for 2016 reveals an annual average price decrease for meat and meat food products at 4.4 percent and for poultry products at 2.7 percent. When rounded to the nearest $100, the dollar limitation for meat and meat food products decreased by $3,500 and the dollar limitation for poultry products decreased by $1,600. In accordance with 9 CFR 303.1(d)(2)(iii)(b) and 381.10(d)(2)(iii)(b), because the dollar limitation of meat and meat food products and poultry products decreased by more than $500, FSIS is decreasing the dollar limitation on sales to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions to $75,700 for meat and meat food products and to $56,600 for poultry products for calendar year 2017.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this rule online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register. 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/subscribe.

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.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative. Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email: Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Director, Office of Adjudication 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–9410. Fax: (202) 690–7442. Email: program.intake@usda.gov.
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Food and Nutrition Service**

**Agency Information Collection Activities:**

**Proposed Collection:**

**Comment Request—Negative QC Review Schedule, Status of Sample Selection of Completion**

**Agency:** Food and Nutrition 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 this proposed information collection. This collection is a revision of a currently approved collection for FNS–245, Case and Procedural Case Action Review Schedule.

**Dates:** Written comments must be received on or before July 31, 2017.

**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 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 that were 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**Comments may be sent to:**

Lacy O’Neal, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 824, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Stephanie Proska at 703–305–2516 or via email to SNAPHQ-Web@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to http://www.regulations.gov, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Lacy O’Neal at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).

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**Written comments must be received on or before July 31, 2017.**

**AFFECTED PUBLIC:** State, Local and Tribal Government.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 53 State Agencies.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 735.28.

**Estimated Total Annual Responses:** 38,970.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 176.436 minutes (2.9406 hours).

**Estimated Total Burden Hours:** 114,595.18.

**Number of Record Keepers:** 53.

**Number of Records per Record Keeper:** 735.28 Records.

**Estimated Number of Records/Response to Keep:** 38,970 Records.

**Recordkeeping time per Response:** 1,416 minutes (.0236 hours).

**Total Estimated Recordkeeping Burden Hours:** 55,181.4 minutes (919.692 hours).

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents including reporting and recording:** 6,930,892.2 minutes (115,514.87 hours).

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**REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING BURDen**

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<th>Respondent</th>
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