DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) intends to request a revision for a currently approved information collection procedure for entry of specialty sugars into the United States.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before April 9, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments as requested in this document. In your comment, include the volume, date, and page number of this issue of the Federal Register. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Email: William.Janis@fas.usda.gov; or
- Telephone: (202) 720–2194.

Comments will be available for inspection online at http://www.regulations.gov and at the mail address listed above between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Persons with disabilities who require an alternative means of communication for inspection purposes (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Specialty Sugar Certificate Application, OMB Number: 0551–0025. Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2018.

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

Abstract: The quota system established by Presidential Proclamation 4941 of May 5, 1982, prevented imports of certain sugars used for specialized purposes which originated in countries without quota allocations. Therefore, the regulation at 15 CFR part 2011 (Allocation of Tariff-Rate Quota on Imported Sugars, Syrups and Molasses, subpart B—Specialty Sugar) established terms and conditions under which certificates are issued permitting U.S. importers holding certificates to enter specialty sugars from specialty sugar source countries under the sugar tariff-rate quotas (TRQ). Nothing in this subpart affects the ability to enter specialty sugars at the over-TRQ duty rates. Applicants for certificates for the import of specialty sugars must supply the information required by 15 CFR 2011.205 to be eligible to receive a specialty sugar certificate. The specific information required on an application must be collected from those who wish to participate in the program in order to grant specialty sugar certificates, ensure that imported specialty sugar does not disrupt the current domestic sugar program, and administer the issuance of the certificates effectively.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 120 hours.

Request for Comments: We are requesting comments on all aspects of this information collection to help us to: (1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FAS’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of FAS’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Connie Ehrhart, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 690–1578 or email at Connie.Ehrhart@fas.usda.gov.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

E-Government Act Compliance

FAS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act, to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.


Bobby Richey Jr.,
Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–02266 Filed 2–5–18; 8:45 am]
Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1021, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250–1021:
  • Email: William.Janis@fas.usda.gov;
or
  • Telephone: (202) 720–2194.
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
  Title: Sugar Imported for Export as Refined Sugar or as a Sugar-Containing Product, or used in the Production of Certain Polyhydric Alcohols.
  OMB Number: 0551–0015.
  Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2018.
  Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.
  Abstract: The primary objective of the Sugar Import Licensing Program is to permit entry of raw cane sugar, unrestricted by the quantitative limit established by the sugar tariff-rate quota, for re-export in refined form or in a sugar containing product or for the production of certain polyhydric alcohols. These programs are in use by as many as 250 licensees currently eligible to participate. Under 7 CFR part 1530, licensees are required to submit the following: (1) “Application for a license” information required for participation as set forth in section 1530.104; (2) “Regular reporting” of import, export, transfer, or use for charges and credits to licenses under section 1530.109; and (3) “Miscellaneous submission” of bonds or letters of credit under section 1530.107, appeals to determinations by the licensing authority under section 1530.112, or requests to the licensing authority for waivers under section 1530.113.
  In addition, each participant must maintain records on all program reports as set forth in section 1530.110. The information collected is used by the licensing authority to manage, plan, evaluate, and account for program activities. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper operations of these programs.

Estimate of Burden: (1) “Application for a license” would require 20 hours per response; (2) “Regular reporting” would require between 10 and 15 minutes per transaction with the number of transactions varying on the number of transactions varying per respondent; and (3) “miscellaneous submission” would require between 1 to 2 hours per bond or letter of credit, 2 to 10 hours per waiver request, and 10 to 20 hours per appeal.

Respondents: Sugar refiners, manufacturers of sugar containing products, and producers of polyhydric alcohol.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 270.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: New/Renew License: 1; Regular reporting: 75 transactions, total; Miscellaneous: Bonds/letters of credit: 1; Waiver requests: 1; Appeals: 1.

Estimated Total Burden Hours on Respondents: 1,653 hours.

Request for Comments: We are requesting comments on all aspects of this information collection to help us to: (1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FAS’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of FAS’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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Bobby Richey, Jr.,
Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS–2018–0001]

Notice of Request for an Extension of Existing Information Collection Package

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that NRCS will request an extension for a currently approved information collection for long-term contracting forms.

DATES: Comments must be received 60 days after publication in the Federal Register to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Berns, Easement Programs Division, Room 5241–S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250; telephone (202) 720–5074.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
  Title: Long-Term Contracting.
  OMB Number: 0578–0013.
  Expiration Date of Approval: 3 years from approval date.
  Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.
  Abstract: The primary objective of NRCS is to work in partnership with the American people and the farming and ranching community to protect, conserve, and sustain our Nation’s natural resources on privately owned land. The purpose of the long-term contracting information collection is to allow for programs to provide Federal technical and financial cost-sharing assistance through long-term contracts to eligible producers, landowners, and entities. These long-term contracts provide for making land use changes and installing conservation measures and practices to protect, conserve, develop, and use the soil, water, and