

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 Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-042N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Thirty-fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), of the Department of Health and Human Services, are sponsoring a public meeting on January 8, 2003, to present and receive comment on draft United States positions on all issues coming before the Thirty-fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), which will be held in Orlando, Florida, January 27-February 1, 2003.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD, 20740, in Conference Room 1A003. To receive copies of the documents relevant to this notice, contact the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.fao.org/codexalimentarius.net>. Send comments, (an original and two copies) to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket #02-042N. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket

Room between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Syed A. Ali, International Issues Analyst, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700, Telephone (202) 205-7760, Fax (202) 720-3157. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Mr. Ali at the above numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (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 Hygiene was established to draft basic provisions on food hygiene for all foods. The Government of the United States hosts this Committee and will chair the Committee meeting.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following specific issues will be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Matters Referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and/or Other Codex Committees to the Food Hygiene Committee.

2. Endorsement of Hygiene Provisions in the Codex Standards and Codes of Practice:

- Code of Practice for Fish and Fish Products at Step 8.

- Section on Processing of Frozen Surimi at Step 5/8.

3. Draft Revised Guidelines for the Application of HACCP Systems at Step 7.

4. Consideration of the Obstacles to the Application of HACCP, Particularly in Small and Less Developed Businesses and Approaches to Overcome Them.

5. Reports of the *ad hoc* Expert Consultations on Risk Assessment of Microbiological Hazards in Food and Related Matters.

6. Discussion Paper on Risk Management Strategies for *Salmonella* spp. In Poultry.

7. Discussion Paper on Risk Management Strategies for *Vibrio* spp.

8. Risk Profile for Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* Including the Identification of the Commodities of Concern, Including Sprouts, Ground Beef and Pork.

9. Proposed Draft Process by which the Committee on Food Hygiene Could Undertake its Work in Microbiological Risk Assessment/Risk Management.

10. Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Management at Step 4.

11. Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Foods at Step 4.

12. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products at Step 4.

13. Proposed Draft Revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products (CAC/RCP 30-1983) at Step 4.

14. Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures at Step 4.

15. Risk analysis in the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Codes.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that

have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv), go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 02-32242 Filed 12-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business—Cooperative Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 21, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Bonnet, Senior Commercial Loan Specialist, Business and Industry Division Processing Branch, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224; Telephone: (202) 720-1804; E-mail: rick.bonnet@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Servicing Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans.

OMB Number: 0570-0016.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the program is to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities, including pollution abatement and control. This purpose is

achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure through guarantee of quality loans, which will provide lasting community benefits. This subpart contains requirements applicable to Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans administered by the Agency.

Information being collected on guaranteed loans is typically collected from lenders. There are no new data collection requirements contained in the renewal notice.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .81 hours per response.

Respondents: Guaranteed lenders.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 5.93.

Estimated Number of Responses: 20,740.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 16,860 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Tracy Givlekian, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0039.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Rural Business—Cooperative Service (RBS), including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS'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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Tracy Givlekian, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250. 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.

Dated: December 11, 2002.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 02-32191 Filed 12-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS's) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Guaranteed Loanmaking—Business and Industry Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 21, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Bonnet, Senior Commercial Loan Specialist, Business and Industry Division Processing Branch, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224, Telephone (202) 720-1804, e-mail "rick.bonnet@usda.gov".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Guaranteed Loanmaking—Business and Industry Loans.

OMB Number: 0570-0017.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The purpose of the program is to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities, including pollution abatement and control. This purpose is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure through guarantee of quality loans, which will provide lasting community benefits. This subpart contains requirements applicable to Business and Industry Loan Program loans administered by the Agency.

Information being collected on guaranteed loans is typically collected from lenders. There are no new data collection requirements contained in the renewal notice. However, we revised several B&I forms so they could be used in two other Rural Development programs (Community Facilities and Water and Waste Disposal Guaranteed Loan Programs). The estimated burden associated with their use of these forms