

9567. Fax: (202) 720-2232. E-mail: shantelle.gordon@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RHS is submitting to OMB for approval. 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 will 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 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:

Title: Real Estate Title Clearance and Loan Closing.

OMB Number: 0575-0147.

Expiration date: October 31, 2010.

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

Abstract: Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace or rehabilitate dwellings, farm buildings, and/or related facilities to provide decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions and adequate farm buildings and other structures in rural areas. Title clearance is required to assure the Agency(s) that the loan is legally secured and has the required lien priority.

RHS will be collecting information to assure that those participating in this program remain eligible to proceed with loan closing and to ensure that loans made with Federal funds are legally secured. The respondents are individuals or households, businesses and non-profit institutions. The information required is used by the USDA personnel to verify that the required lien position has been obtained. The information is collected at

the field office responsible for processing a loan application through loan closing. The information is also used to ensure the program is administered in a manner consistent with legislative and administrative requirements. If not collected, the Agency would be unable to determine if the loan is adequately and legally secured. RHS continually strives to ensure that information collection burden is kept to a minimum.

Estimate of burden: Public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.22 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or Households, Businesses, Closing agents/Attorneys and the field office staff.

Estimated number of respondents: 18,410.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated number of responses: 60,473.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 13,423 hours.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RBS' 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 forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Jeanne Jacobs, Regulation and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, Washington, DC 20250-0742. 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: June 14, 2010.

Magdey Abdallah,

Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-14823 Filed 6-17-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Buy American Exception Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) hereby gives notice of a nationwide exception to the Buy American requirements of Section 1605 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("ARRA") under the authority of Section 1605(b)(1) (public interest waiver) for *de minimis* incidental components of eligible publicly owned essential community facilities projects using assistance provided under ARRA. This action permits the use of non-domestic iron, steel and manufactured goods when they occur in *de minimis* incidental components that may otherwise be prohibited under Section 1605(a). As used in this Notice, "*de minimis* incidental components" means those components otherwise prohibited under Section 1605(a) that cumulatively comprise no more than a total of 5 percent of the total cost of the materials used in a project funded in whole or in part with ARRA assistance.

DATES: *Effective Date:* June 18, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send any correspondence regarding this notice to William R. Downs, Program Support Staff, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0761, Washington, DC 20250-0761.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William R. Downs, Program Support Staff, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0761, Washington, DC 20250-0761, Telephone: 202-720-1499, e-mail: William.downs@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 1605(c) of ARRA and Section 176.80 of the rules of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (2 CFR 176.80), RHS hereby provides notice that it is granting a nationwide exception to Section 1605 of the Recovery Act with respect to *de minimis* incidental components of eligible Community Programs projects funded under ARRA. The basis for this waiver is a public interest determination pursuant to Section 1605(b)(1) of ARRA.

I. Background

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 made funding

available to RHS to make direct loans and grants for essential community facilities authorized by Sections 306(a)(1) and (a)(19) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(1) and (a)(19), respectively). Section 1605(a) of ARRA, the "Buy American" provision, states that "none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States."

Section 1605(b) of ARRA authorizes the head of a Federal department or agency to waive the Buy American provision by one of the following three determinations: (1) Applying the Buy American provision would be inconsistent with the public interest; (2) the iron, steel, and relevant manufactured goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) the inclusion of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in the United States will increase the cost of the project by more than 25 percent.

If a determination is made to waive the requirements of Section 1605(a) based on a finding under Section 1605(b), then Section 1605(c) requires the head of the department or agency to publish a detailed justification in the **Federal Register** as to why the provision is being waived. Finally, Section 1605(d) requires that the Buy American provision must be applied in a manner consistent with the United States' obligations under international agreements.

II. Public Interest Finding

RHS has determined that, as applied to Community Programs projects, the application of the Buy American restrictions to *de minimis* situations would be inconsistent with the public interest.

Community Programs projects typically contain a relatively small number of high-cost components incorporated into the project that are iron, steel and manufactured goods, such as electrical and mechanical equipment, concrete and masonry products, wood and steel framing products, interior and exterior materials and finishes, and specialty equipment as well as other relevant materials to build structures for facilities such as community hospitals and clinics, fire stations, police stations and schools. In bid solicitations for Community Programs projects, these high-cost

components are generally described in detail in project-specific technical specifications, and public owners and their contractors are generally familiar with the conditions of availability, the potential alternatives for each detailed specification, the approximate cost and, most relevant to this Notice, the country of manufacture of such components.

Every Community Programs project also involves the use of thousands of miscellaneous, generally low-cost components that are essential for, but incidental to, construction of the project. During construction, these components (for example, nuts, bolts, fasteners, screws and nails), are incorporated into the physical structure of the project. For many of these incidental components, the country of manufacture and the availability of alternatives are not always readily or reasonably identifiable prior to procurement in the normal course of business. More importantly, even if for some of these incidental components the country of manufacture may be known, the miscellaneous character of these components, together with their low cost (both individually and when procured in bulk), characterize them as incidental to the facility or project.

RHS finds that it would be inconsistent with the public interest to apply the Buy American requirement to incidental components when they, in total, comprise no more than 5 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project. While individual components may have the same function (e.g. brackets), the specific manufacturer and configuration may vary from project to project; the analysis and consideration of individual waiver requests for them, including determining whether or not U.S. made products exist; therefore, is expected to be time-consuming and labor intensive far out of proportion to the percentage of total project materials they comprise. Further, since the specific use of these low-cost components can be expected to be widely varied, formulating categorical waivers for specific types of components would be impractical. Because the situations described above, *i.e.*, a high number of low-cost, miscellaneous components, can be effectively addressed by a comprehensive application of a nationwide *de minimis* waiver.

Rural Development reviewed an industry-wide survey regarding these incidental components prepared by an independent contractor on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The survey results indicated that the percentage of total costs represented by these incidental components is

generally not in excess of 5 percent of the total cost of the materials incorporated into a project. Rural Development then took the added step to verify the EPA findings by making similar inquiries to likely Rural Development project construction contractors to identify the approximate scope and cost of incidental components within these projects. The responses received by Rural Development were consistent with the EPA data.

RHS has decades of experience in financing Community Programs projects in rural America and shares the rationale established by previous *de minimis* waivers authored by EPA and Rural Utilities Service, with respect to incidental components used in similar projects. Requiring individual waivers for incidental components would be time prohibitive and overly-burdensome for applicants and RHS. The purpose of ARRA is to stimulate economic recovery by funding current public construction. Therefore, a *de minimis* waiver of incidental components totaling no more than 5 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project is in the public interest.

III. Waiver

Based on the public interest finding discussed above and pursuant to Section 1605(c), USDA hereby issues a national waiver from the requirements of ARRA Section 1605 for any incidental components of the type described above that comprise in total a *de minimis* amount of the project, specifically, for any such incidental components up to a limit of no more than 5 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project.

Assistance recipients who elect to use this waiver shall, in consultation with their contractors, determine the items to be covered by this waiver, retain relevant documentation as to those items in their project files, and be able to summarize in reports to RHS, if so requested, the types and/or categories of items to which this waiver is applied, the total cost of incidental components covered by the waiver for each type or category, and the calculations by which they determined the total cost of materials used in and incorporated into the project.

In using this waiver, assistance recipients must consider that there may be circumstances where there are multiple types of low-cost components which, when combined with the incidental components described above, may total more than 5 percent. Assistance recipients in such cases will

have to choose which of these incidental components will be covered by the waiver and which will not. Components that the recipient is unable to include within the 5 percent limit of this waiver must comply with the requirements of Section 1605 of ARRA by appropriate means other than reliance on this waiver.

This supplementary information constitutes the “detailed written justification” required by Section 1605(c) of ARRA and Section 176.80 of the Office of Management and Budget’s rules for waivers of the Buy American provisions.

Dated: May 6, 2010.

Dallas P. Tonsager,
Under Secretary, Rural Development.

May 11, 2010.

Thomas Vilsack,
Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 2010–14812 Filed 6–17–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XU–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2009–0092]

Notice of Decision to Issue Permits for the Importation of Fresh False Coriander From Panama Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to begin issuing permits for the importation into the continental United States of fresh false coriander from Panama. Based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we believe that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of fresh false coriander from Panama.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 18, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Lamb, Import Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–4312.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1

through 319.56–50, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into and spread within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of commodities that, based on the findings of a pest-risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS may begin issuing permits for importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the identified designated measures if: (1) No comments were received on the pest risk analysis; (2) the comments on the pest risk analysis revealed that no changes to the pest risk analysis were necessary; or (3) changes to the pest risk analysis were made in response to public comments, but the changes did not affect the overall conclusions of the analysis and the Administrator’s determination of risk.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** on February 9, 2010 (75 FR 6345–6346, Docket No. APHIS–2009–0092), in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of a pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation into the continental United States of fresh false coriander from Panama. We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days ending on April 12, 2010. We received no comments by that date.

Therefore, in accordance with the regulations in § 319.56-4(c)(2)(ii), we are announcing our decision to begin issuing permits for the importation into the continental United States of fresh false coriander from Panama subject to the following phytosanitary measures:

- Each shipment of false coriander is subject to inspection upon arrival in the United States and must comply with all applicable provisions of § 319.56–3.

- Each shipment of false coriander must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate bearing the

following additional declaration: “The false coriander in this consignment has been inspected and found free of *Nyctotus simulans*.”

- The false coriander must be a commercial consignment as defined in 7 CFR 319.56–2.

These conditions will be listed in the Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements database available at (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/favir>) . In addition to those specific measures, the fresh false coriander will be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56–3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of June 2010.

Kevin Shea

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2010–14791 Filed 6–17–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XW99

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This EFP would allow one commercial fishing vessel to fish outside of the limited access scallop days at sea (DAS) program in support of research conducted by the Coonamessett Farm Foundation. The Assistant Regional Administrator has made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under this EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Atlantic sea scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue an

¹ To view the notice, go to (<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0092>) .