

TABLE I.—HTS AND CONVERSION
FACTORS FOR IMPORTED SHEEP AND
SHEEP PRODUCTS—Continued

HTS	CF
6204699020	0.5199
6204699030	0.1733
6204699050	0.1733
6205101000	1.1554
6205102010	0.9243
6205102020	0.9243
6205301510	0.4621
6205301520	0.4621
6205902020	0.5777
6205902050	0.0578
6205904020	0.5777
6205904040	0.1155
6206100020	0.5777
6206100050	0.0578
6206201000	1.1554
6206202010	0.6932
6206202020	0.6932
6206203010	0.9243
6206203020	0.9243
6206402510	0.5199
6206402520	0.5199
6206900020	0.5199
6206900030	0.1733
6207290010	0.8572
6207922010	0.5315
6207992000	0.8267
6207994000	0.8267
6208290012	0.9243
6208920010	0.0591
6208920020	0.0591
6208920030	0.0591
6208920040	0.0591
6208992010	0.9448
6208992020	0.9448
6209100000	0.7915
6211202020	0.8455
6211203020	0.8455
6211204030	0.8455
6211205020	0.8455
6211206020	0.8455
6211207030	0.8455
6211310010	0.9059
6211310020	0.9059
6211310030	0.9059
6211310040	0.9059
6211310045	0.9059
6211310051	0.9059
6211330052	0.6039
6211410010	0.9663
6211410020	0.9663
6211410030	0.9663
6211410040	0.9059
6211410050	0.9663
6211410055	0.9663
6211410061	0.9663
6211430064	0.6039
6211430074	0.6039
6212900020	0.7161
6214102000	0.3357
6214200000	0.8951
6214300000	0.1119
6214400000	0.1119
6214900010	0.5559
6215900010	1.1189
6216005410	0.5035
6216005810	0.5035
6216008000	1.1189
6217100020	0.8267
6217100030	0.1181
6217900005	0.8267

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HTS	CF
6217900010	0.1181
6217900030	0.8267
6217900035	0.1181
6217900055	0.8267
6217900060	0.1181
6217900080	0.8267
6217900085	0.1181
6301200010	0.9219
6301200020	0.9219
6301900030	0.1085
6302900010	0.9219
6304193040	0.8677
6304910050	0.7592
6304991000	1.0846
6304991500	1.0846
6304994000	1.0846
6304996010	1.0846
6501009000	1.3424
6503009000	1.3424
6505903030	0.9965
6505903045	0.5530
6505903090	0.8470
6505904030	0.8297
6505904045	0.4881
6505904090	0.8297
6505906040	0.4429

The Act also requires the Secretary to hold additional referendums if so requested by a representative group comprised of 10 percent or more of the producers, feeders, and importers who, during a representative period as determined by the Secretary, were engaged in the production, feeding, importation, or processing of sheep or sheep products. In any such referendum, if the continuation of the Order is not approved by a majority of producers, feeders, and importers voting in the referendum, or by producers, feeders, and importers voting in the referendum who account for at least two-thirds of the production represented by the persons voting in the referendum, the Secretary will suspend or terminate the Order. While the proposed rule indicated that the rules would also apply to any additional referendum conducted pursuant to the Act, it has been determined that these rules would apply only to the initial referendum and that rules for additional referendums would be published as necessary. This conforms to recent changes to other research and promotion programs.

The Act specifies that the initial referendum be conducted on a date and location established by the Secretary, under a procedure by which sheep producers, sheep feeders, and importers of sheep and sheep products intending to vote in the referendum shall certify that they were engaged in sheep

production, sheep feeding, or importation of sheep and sheep products during the representative period and, on the same day, would vote in the referendum. In addition, the Act provides that the Secretary must provide absentee ballots on request made either in person or by mail. The initial referendum will be conducted at county CES offices. The CES of the Department will coordinate with State and county CES offices concerning their roles in conducting the initial referendum.

The final rule sets forth procedures to be followed in conducting the referendum under the Act, including definitions, supervision of the referendum, registration, voting procedures, reporting referendum results, and disposition of the ballots and records. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the Department will assist in the conduct of the referendum by (1) counting ballots, (2) determining the eligibility of challenged voters, and (3) reporting referendum results.

On August 8, 1995, AMS published in the Federal Register (60 FR 40313) a proposed rule that set forth procedures to be followed in conducting the referendum under the Act. The proposed rule included provisions concerning definitions, supervision of the referendum, registration, voting procedures, reporting referendum results, and disposition of the ballots and records. It also proposed that the initial referendum be conducted at the county CES offices and that FSA, formerly the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the Department, assist in the conduct of the referendum by (1) counting ballots, (2) determining the eligibility of challenged voters, and (3) reporting referendum results.

The proposed rule was published (60 FR 40313, August 8, 1995) with a request for comments to be submitted by September 7, 1995. The Department received 26 written comments concerning the proposed referendum procedures from individual sheep producers and sheep feeders, as well as producer, feeder, and importer organizations and universities. Twenty-three written comments were filed on time and three comments were filed after the comment period closed. The late comments generally expressed the same views as the timely comments which are responded to herein. The commenters generally supported the proposed rule with certain qualifications.

The substantive changes suggested by commenters are discussed below, together with a description of the