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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

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection Regulations Governing the Financing of Commercial Sales of Agricultural Commodities

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) intention to request a revision to a currently approved information collection under the Pub. L. 480, title I program based on a final rule published at 60 FR 62702 on December 7, 1995.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 26, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie B. Delaplane, Director, Public Law 480 Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1033; telephone (202) 720-3664.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations—Financing Commercial Sales of Agricultural Commodities under Title I, P.L. 480.

OMB Number: 0551-0005.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Minor revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, (Pub. L. 480) authorizes the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to finance the sale

and exportation of agricultural commodities on concessional credit terms. 7 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.* Suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation must retain records for three years and report payments to representatives of importing countries. Prospective commodity suppliers must provide information for the Department to determine eligibility. Commodity suppliers must report details of sales for price approval. Shipping agents nominated by importing countries must submit information to allow identification of possible conflicts of interest.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for these collections of information in the regulations prior to this amendment was estimated at eight hours per response for suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation (records retention and reporting payments); three hours per response for prospective commodity suppliers; 15 minutes per response for commodity suppliers reporting sales; and 1¼ hours per response for shipping agents which are nominated by importing countries.

The changes contained in the final rule are expected to have a quantifiable increase on only one of these estimates. Suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation will be required to report any payment "delivered to" a representative of the importer or importing country as well as payments "to" such representatives. (§ 17.12). Suppliers submitted only four reports for FY 1994, with an estimated burden of 1 hour for a report which contained information on a payment and 15 minutes for a negative report. If the number of positive reports tripled as a result of this final rule, the total reporting burden would increase from 1¾ hours to 12 hours.

Little or no burden increase is expected for the other two modifications to information collection requirements contained in the final rule. Suppliers of ocean transportation will, if requested, have to furnish to CCC copies of related discharge contracts when they are financed by CCC. (§ 17.12.) Such contracts are available to the supplier as a routine part of the transaction, and CCC will request them only when necessary to clarify the terms of the contract. Shipping agents nominated by importing countries must slightly expand the programs and services

referenced in their conflict of interest certification and must also certify that no kickbacks or illegal benefits were paid in connection with their selection. [§ 17.5(c) (7) and (8).] Given the widespread use of word processing, this should take only a few minutes to change in the master document which will then become a part of every subsequent submission by the agent.

Respondents: Suppliers of commodities and ocean transportation; prospective commodity suppliers; shipping agents.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 103.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 528 hours (existing); new burden estimate is 538¼ hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Pamela Hopkins, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-6713.

Request for Comments

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 Connie B. Delaplane, Director, P.L. 480 Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1033; telephone (202) 720-3664.

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.