

information collection, 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 information collection on those who are to respond (such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses).

Estimate of burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.0041 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers/exporters of goods sent to the United States and foreign plant health protection authorities.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 3,000.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 3,300.

Estimated annual number of responses: 9,900,000.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 40,590 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Mrs. Celeste

Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

Government Paperwork Elimination Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), which requires Government agencies in general to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible. For information pertinent to GPEA compliance related to this proposed rule, please contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 319

Bees, Coffee, Cotton, Fruits, Honey, Imports, Logs, Nursery Stock, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rice, Vegetables.

Accordingly, we propose to amend 7 CFR part 319 as follows:

PART 319—FOREIGN QUARANTINE NOTICES

1. The authority citation for part 319 would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 7711-7714, 7718, 7731, 7732, 7751-7754, and 7760; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

2. In § 319.40-3, paragraph (b) would be revised to read as follows:

§ 319.40-3 General permits; articles that may be imported without a specific permit; articles that may be imported without either a specific permit or an importer document.

* * * * *

(b) *Solid wood packing material.* Solid wood packing material, whether in actual use as packing for regulated or nonregulated articles or imported as cargo, may be imported into the United States under a general permit in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) *Treatment.* The solid wood packing materials must have been:

(i) Heat treated to achieve a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes. Such treatment may employ kiln-drying, chemical pressure impregnation, or other treatments that achieve this specification through the use of steam, hot water, or dry heat; or,

(ii) Fumigated with methyl bromide in an enclosed area for at least 16 hours at the following dosage, stated in terms of grams of methyl bromide per cubic meter of the enclosure being fumigated. Following fumigation, fumigated products must be aerated to reduce the concentration of fumigant below hazardous levels, in accordance with label instructions approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

Temperature	Initial dose (g/m ³)	Minimum required concentration (g/m ³) after:			
		0.5 hrs.	2 hrs.	4 hrs.	16 hrs.
21 °C or above	48	36	24	17	14
16 °C or above	56	42	28	20	17
11 °C or above	64	48	32	22	19

(2) *Marking.* The solid wood packing material must be marked in a visible location on each article, preferably on at least two opposite sides of the article, with a legible and permanent mark that indicates that the article meets the requirements of this paragraph. The mark must be approved by the International Plant Protection Convention in its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures to certify that wood packaging material has been subjected to an approved measure, and must include a unique graphic symbol, the ISO two-letter country code for the country that produced the solid wood packing material, a unique number assigned by the national plant protection agency of that country to the producer of the solid wood packing material, and an abbreviation disclosing the type of treatment (*e.g.*, HT for heat

treatment or MB for methyl bromide fumigation).

(3) *Immediate reexport of SWPM without required mark.* An inspector at the port of first arrival may order the immediate reexport of SWPM that is imported without the mark required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, in addition to or in lieu of any port of first arrival procedures required by § 319.40-9 of this part.

(4) *Exception for Department of Defense.* Solid wood packing material used by the Department of Defense (DOD) of the U.S. Government to package nonregulated articles, including commercial shipments pursuant to a DOD contract, may be imported into the United States without the mark required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

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§ 319.40-5 [Amended]

3. In § 319.40-5, paragraphs (g) through (k) would be removed.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of May 2003.

Bill Hawks,

Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

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