

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 68, No. 123

Thursday, June 26, 2003

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-064-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of regulations requiring permits for the interstate movement of certain animals.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 03-064-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03-064-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03-064-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the regulations requiring permits for movement of restricted animals, contact Dr. Michael Gilsdorf, Director, Eradication and Surveillance Team, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-6954. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals.

OMB Number: 0579-0051.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for, among other things, preventing the spread of contagious, infectious, or communicable animal diseases interstate and for eradicating such diseases from the United States. In connection with this mission, Veterinary Services (VS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, carefully monitors animals which either have, or have been exposed to, diseases of quarantine significance as these animals are transported to appropriate slaughtering facilities.

When farm animals (such as cattle, swine, sheep, or horses) become sick or have been exposed to a disease of quarantine significance, it is important that they be removed promptly from the farm to prevent exposing and infecting other animals. In such situations, the owner of sick or exposed animals may have the animals transported from the farm to a slaughtering establishment. When this movement requires animals to be transported across State lines, the owner is required to complete a "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," also known as VS Form 1-27.

It is imperative that these animals not be removed from the vehicle during transport or be otherwise diverted from their destination, since such an event could result in the spread of a disease of quarantine significance among healthy animals. VS Form 1-27, which is completed by specified personnel at the farm of origin and again at the point of destination, is our primary means of ensuring that these animals move directly from the farm to the slaughtering establishment.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of this information collection activity for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning this information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the 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, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.083 hours per response.

Respondents: State field personnel, accredited veterinarians, meat inspectors, animal health technicians, and other regulated entities, including owners of cattle, swine, horses, sheep, and goats.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 4,000.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 3.

Estimated annual number of responses: 12,000.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 996 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours