

designed to help prevent contamination of food products during transportation and storage. The second section of the guidelines deals specifically with food security measures that may be taken to prevent deliberate contamination as part of criminal or terrorist acts. Both sections apply to all points of shipment from the processor to final delivery at the retail store, restaurant, or other facility serving consumers, as well as at any intermediate stops (*i.e.*, intermediate warehouses, transfer, and handling facilities such as airports, break-bulk terminals, rail sidings, etc.) during shipment prior to final delivery. These guidelines are applicable whether the potential contamination occurs due to an intentional or unintentional act. Implementation of these guidelines will assist all participants in the transportation and distribution process in preventing such acts or in responding to them effectively should they occur.

The food safety section of the guidelines has a long history of development by FSIS. In February, 1995, the Pathogen Reduction/HACCP proposed rule (60 FR 6774) was published and in this proposal FSIS stated its commitment to develop standards to help ensure the safe handling of meat and poultry products during transportation and storage. A Technical Analysis Group (TAG) was used by FSIS and the Department of Transportation (DOT) in April 1995, to address the safety of food after it left the production facility and began to move through commerce. The TAG identified the primary hazards associated with the transport of perishable foods and recommended reasonable controls that might be employed by industry to ensure food safety.

Subsequent to the TAG report, FSIS and FDA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on November 22, 1996 (61 FR 59372), seeking information and comments on approaches the agencies might take to foster food safety improvements that might be needed in the transportation and storage of foods. Responses to the TAG Report and the ANPR were used in the development of the food safety recommendations in the *FSIS Safety and Security Guidelines for the Transportation and Distribution of Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products* now being made available to the public.

The food security section of the guidelines addresses the possibility of deliberate attacks on the domestic food supply by individuals or groups and is a direct result of heightened concerns about homeland security that have resulted since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Request for Comments and Information

FSIS has decided to collect and analyze more data on the possible impacts of these guidelines before deciding whether it should proceed with rulemaking. The Agency invites public comment on how to strengthen the safety and security of meat, poultry, and egg products during the transportation and distribution process. The Agency is especially interested in informed responses regarding both food safety and food security to the following questions:

- Are there problems regarding food safety and food security in the transportation, distribution, or storage processes that the guidelines fail to address; or if all issues are addressed, are there flaws in the approaches described in the guidelines?
- If the guidelines can be improved, how could they be improved?
- Will transporters, distributors, and storage facilities have difficulty complying with these guidelines? If so, what difficulties do the guidelines pose? Would the guidelines pose greater, or different, difficulties for small firms than for large firms?
- Should the Agency initiate rulemaking to adopt the guidelines as regulations or will the guidelines be sufficiently effective if they are only voluntary?
- Would mandatory implementation of these transportation guidelines have any unusual or particularly significant impacts on any portion of the food distribution chain? If so, who would be affected and how?
- Would mandating these guidelines by regulation increase costs to transportation, distribution, and storage facilities? If so, would this result in increased costs to the consumer as the end user?

FSIS will consider all relevant comments in deciding whether any of the transportation guidelines should be proposed as a regulation. Should the Agency decide to propose a rule, it will summarize all of the comments and information that it receives and include the summary in the proposed rule.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail

subscription service. In addition, the update is available online through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, industry recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listsrv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>.

Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done in Washington, DC, on July 29, 2003.

Linda Swacina,

Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Monthly Survey of Residential Alterations and Repairs.

Form Number(s): SORAR-705.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0130.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 8,400 hours.

Number of Respondents: 2,800.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting a revision of the currently approved collection for the Quarterly Survey of Residential Alterations and Repairs. The form used to collect this information is SORAR-705. The Census Bureau is responsible for preparing estimates of the

expenditures for residential improvement and repairs. This segment of the construction industry amounted to more than \$170 billion in 2002. While the majority of the data are gathered from the Consumer Expenditure Survey, a portion of the data (\$50 billion in 2002) are collected on the SORAR-705 form. This survey is mailed to a sample of owners of rental or vacant residential properties. Since residential improvement and repairs are a large and growing economic sector, any measure of the construction industry would be incomplete without the inclusion of these data.

In an effort to make our data dissemination more timely, the survey will begin monthly data collection for the January 2004 survey month. To improve the scope of the survey, we will begin to collect expenditures for wall-to-wall carpeting, kitchen appliances, manufactured housing, and rented condominiums that are excluded from the current data collection. To reduce the respondent burden of monthly data collection, we will decrease by 20% the number of improvement queries on the monthly form. For example, siding work done as an "alteration" and siding work done as a "major replacement" are now combined into one siding improvement. Also, we have removed one question from the form, "When was this building or complex originally built?"

The Census Bureau uses the information collected on the SORAR-705 form to publish improvement and repair expenditures for rental and vacant residential properties. Data on improvements and repairs to owner-occupied properties are collected in the Consumer Expenditure Survey. Combined published estimates are used by a variety of private businesses and trade associations for marketing studies, economic forecasts and assessments of the construction industry. They also provide all levels of Government with a tool to evaluate economic policy and measure progress toward established goals. For example, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses the Census Bureau's improvement statistics to develop the residential structures component of the gross private domestic investment in the national income and product accounts.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; State, local or Tribal government.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: July 29, 2003.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

Title: Initial Report on a Foreign Person's Direct or Indirect Acquisition, Establishment, or Purchase of the Operating Assets, Including Real Estate, of a U.S. Business Enterprise.

Form Number(s): BE-13, BE-14, and BE-13 Supplement C (Exemption Claim).

Agency Approval Number: 0608-0035.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 900 hours.

Number of Respondents: 600 annually.

Avg Hours Per Response: 1.5 hours.

Needs and Uses: The Initial Report on a Foreign Person's Direct or Indirect Acquisition, Establishment, or Purchase of the Operating Assets, of a U.S. Business Enterprise, Including Real Estate (Form BE-13) and the Report by a U.S. Person Who Assists or Intervenes in the Acquisition of a U.S. Business Enterprise by, or Who Enters Into a Joint Venture with, a Foreign Person (Form BE-14) obtain initial data on new foreign direct investment in the United States. Survey form BE-13 collects information on the cost of new foreign direct investment in the United States, the sources of funding (*i.e.*, the foreign

parent group and/or existing U.S. affiliates of the foreign parent), and limited financial and operating data for the U.S. entity being established or acquired; the survey also collects identification information about the U.S. entity being established or acquired and about the new foreign owner. Survey form BE-14 collects information from U.S. persons who assist in an investment transaction, such as a real estate broker or attorney, or who enter into a U.S. joint venture with a foreign person. The primary purpose of this information collection is to identify new U.S. affiliates that should be included in BEA's estimates of foreign direct investment in the United States. The information is needed to update data on the universe of U.S. affiliates to ensure that it is complete, and to determine whether the new affiliates exceed the exemption criteria required for reporting in related benchmark, annual, and quarterly surveys of foreign direct investment conducted by BEA. The information is also used to improve the accuracy of universe estimates derived from the ongoing quarterly and annual surveys, which are sample surveys.

Many State and local governments have taken steps to attract new foreign direct investment to their localities. To make informed policy decisions concerning such investment, it is essential that government entities, including the U.S. Government, have the means to measure foreign direct investment in the United States, monitor changes in it, and assess its economic impact. Data from the survey are intended to be general purpose statistics on foreign direct investment that are readily available to answer any number of research and policy questions when they arise.

Affected Public: U.S. businesses or other for-profit institutions.

Frequency: One-time survey.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 22 U.S.C., Sections 3101-3108, as amended.

OMB Desk Officer: Paul Bugg, (202) 395-3093.

You may obtain copies of the above information collection proposal by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov.

Send comments on the proposed information collection within 30 days of publication of this notice to Paul Bugg, OMB Desk Officer, via the Internet at