

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request—Food Stamp
Program—Store Applications, Form
FNS-252, Food Stamp Application for
Stores**

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: On January 2, 2003, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register**, asking for comments from the public on the revised Food Stamp Program Application for Stores, Form FNS-252. We will now actively solicit feedback from approximately 30 retailers on the clarity and significance of questions on the revised application through one-on-one interactions, through small focus groups and/or online. Participants may include new applicant retailers, currently participating retailers and members from national and local retailer associations.

We will incorporate comments from retailers into the final version of the revised Form FNS-252 and then forward it to OMB for approval. We do not intend to use the revised retailer application until the new Store Tracking and Redemption Subsystem (STARS) is operational, around the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004. We will use the current Form FNS-252 until then.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: 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 has 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 validity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information of those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Karen Walker, Chief, Retailer Management Branch, Benefit Redemption Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of

Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 404, Alexandria, VA 22302; FAX number (703) 305-1863; e-mail: BRDHQ-WEB@fns.usda.gov. All submitted comments should refer to the title of this proposal and/or the OMB approval number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Karen Walker at (703) 305-2418 or BRDHQ-WEB@fns.usda.gov. Information requests submitted through e-mail should refer to the title of this proposal and/or the OMB approval number in the subject line.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Stamp Program: Food Stamp Program Application for Stores, Form FNS-252 (Soliciting Comments from Retailers on the Revised Application).

OMB Number: 0584-0008.

Expiration Date: May 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Section 9 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 2011-2036) requires retail food stores to submit applications to FNS for approval prior to participating in the Food Stamp Program. Recently, reengineering teams were charged with improving the current food stamp application for stores, Form FNS-252, to make it shorter, easier to understand and more customer- and computer-friendly. We believe the revised Form FNS-252 is an improvement over the current Form FNS-252 because it:

- Utilizes plain language;
- Deletes redundant questions and questions that solicit information that can be collected from other FNS sources such as store visits and databases;
- Improves the accuracy of submitted information through better targeted questions; and
- Supports the Department's efforts to comply with the E-GOV requirements by making the form compatible with current technology. The revised retailer application has been developed in a format that can be scanned and easily converted into an online document.

As part of the reengineering team's efforts, we received feedback on the revised Form FNS-252 from staff from our regional and field offices. Additionally, we published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** on January 2, 2003, asking for comments from the public on the revised retailer application. We are now seeking additional input from retailers. Through this feedback, we will gain a more comprehensive evaluation of the revised Form FNS-252 and identify areas that may need to be improved further.

We will solicit comments from approximately 30 retailers on the revised retailer application. We will solicit comments through one-on-one sessions with retailers, or by convening small groups of retailers at the conclusion of training sessions on the Food Stamp Program or at other meetings of retailers. If we convene small groups of retailers, retailers will be asked to give their individual opinions and impressions of the form. We will not elicit a group consensus during this process. We may also ask individual retailers to complete an application to verify that our burden estimates are accurate for the time it takes to complete the form.

Headquarters or field office staff who conduct food stamp training sessions will carry out these comment request sessions. The sessions will take place at more than one location throughout the country. The purpose of the discussions is to get feedback on the form's content; readability; overall form design; the clarity of the form's instructions; and to discuss the ease or difficulty in completing the revised application. Finally, we may also solicit comments online from participating retailers in addition to soliciting comments in-person as discussed above.

Burden Estimates: When soliciting comments, we estimate that we will spend at least 40 minutes, or .66 hour, per retailer (20 minutes interacting with the retailer and 20 minutes having the retailer complete the application, if applicable). Comments will be solicited through one-on-one interactions and through small focus groups. Participants may include new applicant retailers, currently participating retailers and representatives from national and local retailer associations. We will consider the comments we receive before making final changes to the revised Form FNS-252. If the results of the evaluation are positive, we will implement the revised Form FNS-252 when the new STARS system is operational some time during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004.

The estimated burden computation is provided below:

Affected Public: Currently participating retailers, new applicant retailers and members of national and local retailer associations will participate in comment request sessions and provide feedback on the redesigned form.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 30.

Estimated Hours Per Respondent: .66.

Estimate of Burden: 19.8.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 19.8.

Dated: September 10, 2003.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on October 7, 2003, in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

DATES: The meeting will be held on October 7 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Del Norte County Unified School District Board Room, 301 West Washington, Crescent City, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Chapman, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501. Phone: (707) 441-3549. e-mail: lchapman@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to finalize the lists of Title II projects for fiscal year 2004. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: September 15, 2003.

S.E. 'Lou' Woltering,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-24077 Filed 9-18-03; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-827]

Notice of Initiation and Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review and Intent to Revoke Order in Part: Certain Cased Pencils from the People's Republic of China

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of initiation and preliminary results of antidumping duty changed circumstances review and intent to revoke order in part.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 751(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and section 351.216(b) of the Department of Commerce's (the Department) regulations, Accoutrements filed a request for a changed circumstances review of the antidumping duty (AD) order on certain cased pencils from the People's Republic of China (PRC). Specifically, Accoutrements requests that the Department revoke the AD order with respect to a large novelty pencil, which is described below. The domestic industry has affirmatively expressed a lack of interest in the continuation of the order with respect to this product. In response to the request, the Department is initiating a changed circumstances review and issuing a notice of preliminary intent to revoke, in part, the AD order on certain cased pencils from the PRC. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 22, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Crystal Crittenden or Howard Smith AD/CVD Enforcement, Group II, Office 4, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-0989 and (202) 482-5193, respectively.

Background

On July 30, 2003, Accoutrements, a U.S. importer, filed a request with the Department to revoke the AD order on certain cased pencils from the PRC with respect to a large novelty pencil. See Accoutrements letter to the Secretary, dated July 25, 2003 (Accoutrements Request Letter). Specifically, Accoutrements requests that the Department revoke the AD order with respect to imports meeting the following description: novelty jumbo pencil that is

octagonal in shape, approximately fourteen inches long, one-and-one quarter inches in diameter, and three-and-three quarter inches in circumference, composed of turned wood imprinted with the word, ACCOUTREMENTS, and the number 2, on one side, encasing one-and-one half inches of sharpened lead on one end and a rubber eraser on the other end. See Accoutrements Request Letter at 1.

On August 11, 2003, the petitioner in the pencils AD proceeding¹ submitted a letter to the Department stating that it "would not support inclusion in the referenced antidumping duty order of a jumbo novelty pencil (approximately 1 foot long and 1 inch in diameter) that a company called Accoutrements is considering importing." On September 8, 2003, the petitioner submitted a letter to the Department clarifying its August 11, 2003 submission. In its September 8, 2003, letter, the petitioner submitted the following proposed scope language with respect to the above-mentioned jumbo novelty pencil: "Also excluded from the scope of the order are pencils with all of the following physical characteristics: 1) length: 14 or more inches; 2) sheath diameter: not less than one-and-one quarter inches at any point (before sharpening); and 3) core length: not more than 15 percent of the length of the pencil."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scope of the Order

Imports covered by this order are shipments of certain cased pencils of any shape or dimension which are writing and/or drawing instruments that feature cores of graphite or other materials, encased in wood and/or man-made materials, whether or not decorated and whether or not tipped (e.g., with erasers, etc.) in any fashion, and either sharpened or unsharpened. The pencils subject to this order are classified under item number 9609.10.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Specifically excluded from the scope of this order are mechanical pencils, cosmetic pencils, pens, non-cased crayons (wax), pastels, charcoals, chalks, and pencils produced under U.S. patent number 6,217,242, from paper infused with scents by the means covered in the above-referenced patent, thereby having odors distinct from those that may emanate from pencils lacking the scent infusion.

¹ The petitioner is the Pencil Section of the Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association, a trade association composed of domestic pencil producers, and Sanford Corporation, Musgrave Pencil Company, Mood Products, Inc., and General Pencil Company (collectively, the petitioner).