



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 04/21/2014 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2014-08961>, and on FDsys.gov

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2014-0009]

Notice of Request for a New Information Collection: Meat Slaughter Industry Survey

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing its intention to request a new information collection for a survey of the meat slaughter industry.

DATES: [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this proposed rule. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.: Send to Docket Room Manager, US Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163B, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- Hand- or courier-delivered submittals: Deliver to Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW, Room 8-163B, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2014-0009. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

DOCKET: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW, Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gina Kouba, Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6067, South Building, Washington, DC 20250; Telephone: (202)690-6510.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Meat Slaughter Industry Survey.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: FSIS has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR 2.18, 2.53) as specified in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601, et seq.). FSIS protects the public by verifying that meat and poultry products are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled, and packaged.

FSIS plans to request a new information collection to conduct a new survey of the meat slaughter industry. In 2004, FSIS conducted a survey of the meat slaughter industry to collect information on food safety practices and technologies. This was part of a broader FSIS effort to survey poultry slaughter, meat and poultry processing, and egg products industries from 2003 to 2006. FSIS needs to survey the meat industry again so that the Agency has current information on industry practices for conducting regulatory impact analyses as required by OMB.

In this currently planned survey of meat slaughter establishments, FSIS will collect data to provide the most accurate, up-to-date information on industry practices and use of technologies. The information gathered through the meat slaughter industry survey will provide FSIS with reliable and valid information regarding food safety practices in FSIS-regulated establishments; the Agency will use this information

to estimate costs in regulatory impact analyses. FSIS also will use the survey data to evaluate the effectiveness of its meat inspection program and to conduct analyses to assess the industry's food safety technologies, sanitation practices, microbiological testing practices, and recall readiness. The results will also be used in conjunction with the results of the 2004 meat slaughter industry survey to analyze trends in food safety practices and technologies over time. FSIS has made the following estimates on the basis of an information collection assessment.

Estimate of Burden: FSIS estimates that it will take each respondent 60 minutes and each non-respondent 12 minutes to participate in the survey.

Respondents: Official meat slaughter establishments.

Estimated No. of Respondents: 417 respondents and 173 non-respondents.

Estimated No. of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 451.6 hours.

Copies of this information collection assessment can be obtained from Gina Kouba, Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6077, South Building, Washington, DC 20250; Telephone: (202) 690-6510.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS'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, 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 both FSIS, at the addresses provided above, and the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20253.

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.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS will also make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies,

procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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Done at Washington, DC on: April 15, 2014.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2014-08961 Filed 04/18/2014 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 04/21/2014]