

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No.AMS-FV-16-0040]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of a currently approved information collection for the Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under Regulations Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930, as amended.

DATES: Comments received by [insert date 60 days after publication in the Federal Register] will be considered.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: You may submit written or electronic comments to:

Natalie Worku, PACA Recordkeeping and Reporting Comments, AMS, Specialty Crops Program, PACA Branch, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1510-S, Stop 0242, Washington DC 20250-0242; fax: 202-690-4413; or Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under Regulations (Other than Rules of Practice) Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930.

OMB Number: 0581-0031.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 2016.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The PACA was enacted by Congress in 1930 to establish a code of fair trading practices covering the marketing of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce. It protects growers, shippers, and distributors dealing in those commodities by prohibiting unfair and fraudulent trade practices.

The law provides a forum for resolving contract disputes, and a mechanism for the collection of damages from anyone who fails to meet contractual obligations. In addition, the PACA provides for prompt payment to fruit and vegetable sellers and for revocation of licenses and sanctions against firms or principals found to have violated the law's standards for fair business practices. The PACA also imposes a statutory trust that attaches to perishable agricultural commodities received by regulated entities, products derived from the commodities, and any receivables or proceeds from the sale of the commodities. The trust exists for the benefit of produce suppliers, sellers, or agents that have not been paid, and continues until they have been paid in full.

The PACA is enforced through a licensing system. All commission merchants, dealers, and brokers engaged in business subject to the PACA must be licensed. Retailers and grocery wholesalers must renew their licenses every three years. All other licensees renew yearly. Those who engage in practices prohibited by the PACA may have their licenses suspended or revoked.

The information collected pursuant to OMB Number 0581-0031 is used to administer licensing provisions under the PACA, to adjudicate contract disputes, and to enforce the PACA and the regulations. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public concerning our information collection.

We estimate the paperwork and time burden of the above referenced information collection to be as follows:

Form FV-211, Application for License: average of .25 hours per application per response.

Form FV-231-1 (or 231-1A, or 231-2, or 231-2A), Application for Renewal or Reinstatement of License: Average of .05 hours per application per response.

Regulations Section 46.13 - Letters to Notify USDA of Changes in Business Operations:
Average of .05 hours per notice per response.

Regulations Section 46.4 - Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization and Operating Agreement: Average of .083 hours with approximately 2,968 annual responses.

Regulations Section 46.18- Record of Produce Received: Average of 5 hours with approximately 6,725 recordkeepers.

Regulations Section 46.20 - Records Reflecting Lot Numbers: Average of 8.25 hours with approximately 683 recordkeepers.

Regulations Section 46.46(c)(2) - Waiver of Rights to Trust Protection: Average of .25 hours per notice with approximately 100 principals.

Regulations Sections 46.2(aa)(11) and 46.46(e)(1) - Copy of Written Agreement Reflecting Times for Payment: Average of 20 hours with approximately 2,343 recordkeepers.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response annually.

Respondents: Commission merchants, dealers, and brokers engaged in the business of buying, selling, or negotiating the purchase or sale of commercial quantities of fresh and/or frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce are required to be licensed under the PACA (7 U.S.C. 499(c)(a)).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,543.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 28,433.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 87,406.

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 27, 2016

Elanor Starmer
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service

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