

Stromberg, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, Oklahoma City, OK.

The Committee will review materials and provide comments and recommendations concerning FSIS's approach for verifying equivalence of foreign inspection systems. This system consists of (1) determining equivalence of laws, regulations, and government controls, (2) audits of foreign inspection systems, and (3) port-of-entry (POE) reinspection of imported product.

Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, equivalence is the foundation for imports and has become a condition of trade between two countries. Equivalence recognizes that an exporting country can provide an appropriate level of food safety and public health protection, even if their sanitary measures are different from those applied by the U.S. Once a country is determined to have a system equivalent to the U.S., that country is then responsible for maintaining the entire system's equivalence while exporting to the U.S. FSIS verifies that the country maintains equivalence through audits of foreign inspection systems. These audits include on-site visits by FSIS personnel of certified establishments and approved laboratories, and FSIS review of government controls. The final audit reports of these countries are posted on the FSIS Web site.

Finally, the last part of verifying the continuing equivalence of foreign systems is through re-inspection of products at the U.S. border. Every shipment of meat, poultry, or egg products that enters the U.S. must be presented to an FSIS inspector at one of the approximately 140 official FSIS import establishments strategically located at major ocean ports of entry and land border crossings. It is here that the initial checks for proper documentation, transportation damage, and proper labeling are conducted. In addition to the initial re-inspection of product entering the U.S., FSIS performs random re-inspection on approximately 10 percent of the shipments of meat, poultry, and egg products. These re-inspection tasks include, for example, product examinations, microbiological analysis for pathogens, and/or a test for chemical residues. Acceptable products or the documents are marked as "Inspected and Passed" and the product is released into commerce. Non-compliant products are rejected, marked as "Refused Entry," and either destroyed or exported from the U.S. More intensive re-inspection is automatically applied to future

shipments of product from the foreign establishment that produced the product that failed re-inspection.

If a country does not implement an FSIS requirement or equivalent sanitary measure, or fails an audit, or POE re-inspection identifies serious problems, FSIS can, and has in the past, suspend imports from that country or individual plants within the country, or suspend specific products from the country.

All interested parties are welcome to attend the meetings and to submit written comments and suggestions concerning issues the Committee will review and discuss. The comments and the official transcript of the meeting, when they become available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2534, South Building, Washington, DC 20250, and posted on the Agency's NACMPI Web site, http://www.fsis.usda.gov/about_fsis/nacmpi/index.asp.

Members of the public will be required to register before entering the meeting.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2008_Notices_Index/.

FSIS also will 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 our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The Update also is available on the FSIS Web page. Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

In addition, FSIS offers an e-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/>

[news_and_events/email_subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/). Options range from recalls, export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

Done at Washington, DC, on August 12, 2008.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8-19041 Filed 8-13-08; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS 2008-0024]

Nominations for Membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting nominations for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF). Nominations for membership are being sought from individuals with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and predictive), risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics, and other related sciences. Persons from the Federal government, State governments, industry, consumer groups, and academia, as well as all other interested persons, are invited to submit nominations. Members who are not federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

The nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise, and a select list of publications. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be considered.

DATES: The nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae must be received by September 17, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Nominations can be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail to Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 333

Aerospace Center, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700, fax number: 202–690–6634, e-mail address: Karen.Thomas-Sharp@fsis.usda.gov. Please note, if using an overnight courier use this address: USDA, FSIS, OPHS, Aerospace Center, 901 D Street, SW., Room 378, Washington, DC 20024.

FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by any 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. FSIS prefers to receive comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the “Search for Open Regulations” box, select “Food Safety and Inspection Service” from the agency drop-down menu, then click on “Submit.” In the Docket ID column, select the FDMS Docket Number FSIS–2008–0024 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. After the close of the comment period, the docket can be viewed using the “Advanced Search” function in Regulations.gov.

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROMs, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, FSIS Docket Room, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2534, Washington, DC 20250.

All submissions received must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS–2008–0024.

All comments submitted in response to this notice, as well as research and background information used by FSIS in developing this document, will be posted to the regulations.gov Web site. The background information and comments also will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, at the above address or by telephone at 202–690–6620 or by fax at 202–690–6634.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established in March 1988, in response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection,

Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, “An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods.” The current charter for the NACMCF and other information about the Committee are available for viewing on the NACMCF homepage at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/NACMCF/index.asp.

The Committee provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed. For example, the Committee assists in the development of criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that recommendations made by the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department. Membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Given the complexity of issues, the full Committee expects to meet at least once yearly, and the meetings will be announced in the **Federal Register**. The subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson and will be held as working group meetings in an open public forum. The subcommittee meetings will not be announced in the **Federal Register**. FSIS will announce the agenda and subcommittee working group meetings through the Constituent Update, available on-line at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/2008_Constituent_Update/index.asp. NACMCF holds subcommittee working group meetings in order to accomplish the work of NACMCF; all work accomplished by the subcommittees is reviewed and approved by the full Committee during a public meeting of the full Committee, as announced in the **Federal Register**. The subcommittee may invite technical experts to present information for consideration by the subcommittee. All data and records available to the full Committee are expected to be available to the public at the time the full Committee reviews and approves the work of the subcommittee.

Appointment to the Advisory Committee is for a two-year term, renewable for a total of three consecutive terms. Members are expected to attend all meetings in-person as this is necessary for the

functioning of this advisory committee. But we realize that unexpected events or extenuating circumstances (e.g., a personal or family emergency) may result in a member’s inability to attend a meeting in-person, and that attendance through teleconferencing may be necessary. Since this has been a less than optimal means to contribute to the work of the committee, members should make efforts to attend all meetings to the extent that this is possible. In-person attendance is expected but is not a requirement.

Members must be prepared to work outside of scheduled Committee and subcommittee meetings, and may be required to assist in document preparation. Committee members serve on a voluntary basis; however, travel reimbursement and per diem are available.

Regarding Nominees Who Are Selected

All nominees who are selected must submit a USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD–755, available on-line at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSISForms/AD-755.pdf>.

As new appointees, SGEs must complete the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 450 Confidential Financial Disclosure Report, before rendering any advice, or prior to their first meeting. All members will be reviewed for conflict of interest pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208 in relation to specific NACMCF work charges. Financial disclosure updates will be required annually. Members must report any changes in financial holdings requiring additional disclosure. OGE 450 forms are available on-line at: http://www.usoge.gov/pages/forms_pubs_otherdocs/fpo_files/forms/fr450fill_04.pdf.

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Done at Washington, DC, on August 12, 2008.

Alfred V. Almanza,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8-19043 Filed 8-15-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the New Jersey Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that a day-long briefing meeting before a subcommittee of the Pennsylvania State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, September 8, 2008, at the Monroe County Administrative Center, 1 Quaker Plaza, Room 203, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 19360.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive presentations from experts on civil rights matters in Monroe County, PA.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the Eastern Regional Office by September 22, 2008. The address is 624 Ninth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20425. Persons wishing to e-mail their comments, or who desire additional information should contact Alfreda Greene, Secretary, 202-376-7533, TTY 202-376-8116 or by e-mail: agreene@usccr.gov.

Hearing impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the service of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at

least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Eastern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or to contact the Eastern Regional Office at the above e-mail or street address.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission and the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Dated in Washington, DC, August 12, 2008.

Christopher Byrnes,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. E8-18979 Filed 8-15-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit 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: Current Industrial Reports

Program.

OMB Control Number: 0607-0476.

Form Number(s): Various.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden Hours: 28,131.

Number of Respondents: 19,728.

Average Hours Per Response: 42 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a series of monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys as part of the Current Industrial Reports (CIR) Program. The CIR surveys request primarily the quantity and value of shipments of particular products and occasionally data on production and inventories; unfilled orders, receipts, stocks, and consumption; and comparative data on domestic production, exports, and imports of the products they cover.

Previously, the CIR surveys were divided into three separate waves and submitted separately for OMB review. Due to the reduced number of surveys in the CIR Program, the CIR surveys are being combined into one wave. During the economic census years, in the years ending in 2 and 7 all voluntary annual surveys are made mandatory.

Primary users of these data are government and regulatory agencies, business firms, trade associations, and private research and consulting organizations. The Federal Reserve Board (FRB) uses CIR data in its monthly index of industrial production as well as its annual revision to the index. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) use the CIR data in the estimate of components of gross domestic product (GDP) and the estimate of output for productivity analysis, respectively. Many government agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Energy, Federal Aviation Administration, BEA, and International Trade Administration use the data for industrial analysis, projections, and monitoring import penetration. Private business firms and organizations use the data for trend projections, market analysis, product planning, and other economic and business-oriented analysis. Since the CIR program is the sole, consistent source of information regarding specific manufactured products in the intercensal years, the absence thereof would severely hinder the Federal Government's ability to measure and monitor important segments of the domestic economy, as well as the effect of import penetration.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Monthly, quarterly, and annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary and mandatory, depending on the survey.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 61, 81, 131, 182, 224, and 225.

OMB Desk Officer: Brian Harris-Kojetin, (202) 395-7314.

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 Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (bharrisk@omb.eop.gov).