

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1205

[Doc. # AMS-CN-09-0015; CN-09-002]

Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2009 Amendments)

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is proposing to amend the Cotton Board Rules and Regulations by increasing the value assigned to imported cotton for calculating supplemental assessments collected for use by the Cotton Research and Promotion Program. An amendment is required to adjust the assessments collected on imported cotton and the cotton content of imported products to be the same as those paid on domestically produced cotton. In addition, AMS proposes to add and change Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) statistical reporting numbers that were amended since the last assessment adjustment.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 11, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this proposed rule to Shethir M. Riva, Chief, Research and Promotion Staff, Cotton and Tobacco Programs, AMS, USDA, Stop 0224, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2637-S, Washington, DC 20250-0224. Comments should be submitted in triplicate. Comments may also be submitted electronically through <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received will be made available for public inspection at Cotton and Tobacco Programs, AMS, USDA, Stop 0224, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2637-S, Washington, DC 20250-0224 during regular business hours. A copy of this

notice may be found at: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shethir M. Riva, Chief, Research and Promotion Staff, Cotton and Tobacco Programs, AMS, USDA, Stop 0224, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 2637-S, Washington, DC 20250-0224, telephone (202) 720-6603, facsimile (202) 690-1718, or e-mail at Shethir.Riva@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget has waived the review process required by Executive Order 12866 for this action.

Executive Order 12988

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. It is not intended to have retroactive effect. This proposed rule would not preempt any state or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule.

The Cotton Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2101-2118) (Act) provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 12 of the Act, any person subject to an order may file with the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) a petition stating that the order, any provision of the plan, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law and requesting a modification of the order or to be exempted therefrom. Such person is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing, the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the District Court of the United States in any district in which the person is an inhabitant, or has his principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review the Secretary's ruling, provided a complaint is filed within 20 days from the date of the entry of ruling.

Background

Amendments to the Act were enacted by Congress under Subtitle G of Title XIX of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624, 104 Stat. 3909, November 28, 1990). These amendments contained two provisions that authorized changes in the funding

procedures for the Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

These provisions are: (1) The assessment of imported cotton and cotton products; and (2) termination of the right of cotton producers to demand a refund of assessments.

As amended, the Cotton Research and Promotion Order (7 CFR part 1205) (Order) was approved by producers and importers voting in a referendum held July 17-26, 1991, and the amended Order was published in the **Federal Register** on December 10, 1991 (56 FR 64470). A proposed rule implementing the amended Order was published in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 1991 (56 FR 65450). Implementing rules were published on July 1 and 2, 1992, (57 FR 29181) and (57 FR 29431), respectively.

This proposed rule would increase the value assigned to imported cotton in the Cotton Board Rules and Regulations (7 CFR 1205.510(b)(2)). The total value is determined by a two-part assessment. The first part of the assessment is levied on the weight of cotton produced or imported at a rate of \$1 per bale of cotton, which is equivalent to 500 pounds, or \$1 per 226.8 kilograms of cotton. The second value is used to calculate the supplemental assessments on imported cotton and the cotton content of imported products. Supplemental assessments are levied at a rate of five-tenths of one percent of the value of domestically produced cotton, imported cotton, and the cotton content of imported products. The supplement assessment is combined with the per bale equivalent to determine the total value and assessment of the imported cotton or cotton-containing products.

Section 1205.510(b)(2) of the Cotton Research and Promotion Rules and Regulations provides for assigning the calendar year weighted average price received by U.S. farmers for Upland cotton to represent the value of imported cotton. This is so that the assessment on domestically produced cotton and the assessment on imported cotton and the cotton content of imported products is the same. The source for the average price statistic is *Agricultural Prices*, a publication of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the Department of Agriculture. Use of the weighted average price figure in the calculation of supplemental assessments on imported

cotton and the cotton content of imported products will yield an assessment that is the same as assessments paid on domestically produced cotton.

The current value of imported cotton as published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 69521) for the purpose of calculating assessments on imported cotton is \$0.009874 per kilogram. Using the Average Weighted Priced received by U.S. farmers for Upland cotton for the calendar year 2008, the new value of imported cotton is \$0.01088 per kilogram or \$0.001006 per kilogram more than the previous value.

An example of the complete assessment formula and how the figures are obtained is as follows:

- One bale is equal to 500 pounds.
- One kilogram equals 2.2046 pounds.
- One pound equals 0.453597 kilograms.

*One Dollar per Bale Assessment
Converted to Kilograms*

A 500-pound bale equals 226.8 kg. (500 × .453597).

\$1 per bale assessment equals \$0.002000 per pound or \$0.2000 per pound (1/500) or \$0.004409 per kg. or \$0.4409 cents per kg. (1/226.8).

*Supplemental Assessment of 5/10 of
One Percent of the Value of the Cotton
Converted to Kilograms*

The 2008 calendar year weighted average price received by producers for Upland cotton is \$0.587 per pound or \$1.294 per kg. (0.587 × 2.2046).

Five-tenths of one percent of the average price in kg. equals \$0.006471 per kg. (1.294 × .005).

Total Assessment

The total assessment per kilogram of raw cotton is obtained by adding the \$1 per bale equivalent assessment of \$0.004409 per kg. and the supplemental assessment \$0.006471 per kg. which equals \$0.010880 per kg.

The current assessment on imported cotton is \$0.009874 per kilogram of imported cotton. The proposed assessment is \$0.01088, an increase of \$0.001006 per kilogram. This increase reflects the increase in the Average Weighted Price of Upland Cotton Received by U.S. Farmers during the period January through December 2008.

Since the value of cotton is the basis of the supplemental assessment calculation and the figures shown in the right hand column of the Import Assessment Table in section 1205.510(b)(3) are a result of such a calculation, the figures in this table have been revised. These figures indicate the total assessment per kilogram due for

each HTS statistical reporting number subject to assessment.

AMS also compared the current import assessment table with the U.S. International Trade Commission's (ITC) 2009 HTS and identified HTS statistical reporting numbers that have been changed or amended by ITC. The HTS statistical reporting number that currently appears in section 1205.510(b)(3) is listed below on the left side of the table with the new proposed HTS statistical reporting number on the right side of the table. The new proposed numbers corresponds with the same ITC category, but with the amended number as it appears in ITC's HTS.

Current HTS	New proposed HTS
5205420020	5205420021
5205440020	5205440021

In addition, AMS removed HTS statistical reporting numbers from section 1205.510(b)(3) that were no longer in the ITC official HTS on November 19, 2008 (73 FR 69521), and has worked with ITC to identify the new corresponding HTS statistical reporting numbers that ITC is using in the 2009 HTS. In many instances, the number is a replacement of a previous number and has no impact on the physical properties or cotton content of the product involved. In other instances, the HTS statistical reporting numbers were expanded and are now represented by two HTS statistical reporting numbers. Below on the left are the numbers removed on November 19, 2008 (73 FR 69521), and on the right are the proposed numbers that ITC currently is using and whose categories correspond to the previously removed HTS statistical reporting numbers from 1205.510(b)(3).

Removed HTS No.	New proposed HTS No.
5208530000	5208591000
5210120000	5210191000
5211210025	5211202125
5211210035	5211202135
5211210050	5211202150
5211290090	5211202990
5604900000	5604909000
5702991010	5702990500
5702991090	5702991500
6109100005	6109100004
6109100009	6109100004
6109100011	6109100011
6110202065	6110202067
6110202075	6110202069
6111206040	6110202077
	6110202079
	6111206050
	6111206070

Removed HTS No.	New proposed HTS No.
6111305040	6111305050
	6111305070
6115198010	6115101510
	6115298010
6115929000	6115959000
	6115103000
6115936020	6115966020
6203424005	6203424006
6203424010	6203424011
6203424015	6203424016
6203424020	6203424021
6203424025	6203424026
6203424030	6203424031
6203424035	6203424036
6203424040	6203424041
6203424045	6203424046
6203424050	6203424051
6203424055	6203424056
6203424060	6203424061
6204624005	6204624006
6204624010	6204624011
6204624020	6204624021
6204624025	6204624026
6204624030	6204624031
6204624035	6204624036
6204624040	6204624041
6204624045	6204624046
6204624050	6204624051
6204624055	6204624056
6204624060	6204624061
6204624065	6204624066
6205202015	6205202016
6205202020	6205202021
6205202025	6205202026
6205202030	6205202031
6205202035	6205202036
6205202046	6205202047
6205202050	6205202051
6205202060	6205202061
6205202065	6205202066
6205202070	6205202071
6205202075	6205202076
6206303010	6206303011
6206303020	6206303021
6206303030	6206303031
6206303040	6206303041
6206303050	6206303051
6206303060	6206303061
6303110000	6303191100

A 30-day comment period is provided to comment on the changes to the Cotton Board Rules and Regulations proposed herein. This period is deemed appropriate because this proposal would increase the assessments paid by importers under the Cotton Research and Promotion Order. An amendment is required to adjust the assessments collected on imported cotton and the cotton content of imported products to be the same as those paid on domestically produced cotton. Accordingly, the change proposed in this rule, if adopted, should be implemented as soon as possible.

Regulatory Flexibility Act and Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601–612, AMS has examined the economic impact of this rule on small entities. The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of businesses subject to such action so that small businesses will not be unduly or disproportionately burdened. The Small Business Administration defines, in 13 CFR part 121, small agricultural producers as those having annual receipts of no more than \$750,000 and small agricultural service firms (importers) as having receipts of no more than \$7,000,000. An estimated 13,000 importers are subject to the rules and regulations issued pursuant to the Cotton Research and Promotion Order. Most are considered small entities as defined by the Small Business Administration.

This proposed rule would only affect importers of cotton and cotton-containing products and would raise the assessments paid by the importers under the Cotton Research and Promotion Order. The current assessment on imported cotton is \$0.009874 per kilogram of imported cotton. The proposed assessment is \$0.01088, which was calculated based on the 12-month average of monthly weighted average prices received by U.S. cotton farmers. Section 1205.510, “Levy of assessments”, provides “the rate of the supplemental assessment on imported cotton will be the same as that levied on cotton produced within the United States.” In addition, section 1205.510 provides that the 12-month average of monthly weighted average prices received by U.S. farmers will be used as the value of imported cotton for the purpose of levying the supplemental assessment on imported cotton.

Under the Cotton Research and Promotion Program, assessments are used by the Cotton Board to finance research and promotion programs designed to increase consumer demand for Upland cotton in the United States and international markets. In 2008, producer assessments totaled \$29.2 million and importer assessments totaled \$25.9 million. According to the Cotton Board, should the volume of cotton products imported into the U.S. remain at the same level in 2009, one could expect the increased assessment to generate approximately \$10.8 million.

Importers with line-items appearing on U.S. Customs and Border Protection documentation with value of the cotton contained therein results of an assessment of two dollars (\$2.00) or less will not be subject to assessments. In

addition, imported cotton and products may be exempt from assessment if the cotton content of products is U.S. produced, cotton other than Upland, or imported products that are eligible to be labeled as 100 percent organic under the National Organic Program (7 CFR part 205) and who is not a split operation.

There are no Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

In compliance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320) which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) the information collection requirements contained in the regulation to be amended have been previously approved by OMB and were assigned control number 0581–0093. This rule does not result in a change to the information collection and recordkeeping requirements previously approved.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1205

Advertising, Agricultural research, Cotton, Marketing agreements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble 7 CFR part 1205 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 1205—COTTON RESEARCH AND PROMOTION

1. The authority citation for part 1205 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2101–2118.

2. In § 1205.510, paragraph (b)(2) and the table in paragraph (b)(3)(ii) are revised to read as follows:

§ 1205.510 Levy of assessments.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) The 12-month average of monthly weighted average prices received by U.S. farmers will be calculated annually. Such weighted average will be used as the value of imported cotton for the purpose of levying the supplemental assessment on imported cotton and will be expressed in kilograms. The value of imported cotton for the purpose of levying this supplemental assessment is \$1.088 cents per kilogram.

(3) * * *

(ii) * * *

IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE

[Raw cotton fiber]

HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.
5201000500	0	1.0880
5201001200	0	1.0880

**IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE—
Continued
[Raw cotton fiber]**

HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.
5201001400	0	1.0880
5201001800	0	1.0880
5201002200	0	1.0880
5201002400	0	1.0880
5201002800	0	1.0880
5201003400	0	1.0880
5201003800	0	1.0880
5204110000	1.1111	1.2089
5204200000	1.1111	1.2089
5205111000	1.1111	1.2089
5205112000	1.1111	1.2089
5205121000	1.1111	1.2089
5205122000	1.1111	1.2089
5205131000	1.1111	1.2089
5205132000	1.1111	1.2089
5205141000	1.1111	1.2089
5205210020	1.1111	1.2089
5205210090	1.1111	1.2089
5205220020	1.1111	1.2089
5205220090	1.1111	1.2089
5205230020	1.1111	1.2089
5205230090	1.1111	1.2089
5205240020	1.1111	1.2089
5205240090	1.1111	1.2089
5205310000	1.1111	1.2089
5205320000	1.1111	1.2089
5205330000	1.1111	1.2089
5205340000	1.1111	1.2089
5205410020	1.1111	1.2089
5205410090	1.1111	1.2089
5205420021	1.1111	1.2089
5205420090	1.1111	1.2089
5205440021	1.1111	1.2089
5205440090	1.1111	1.2089
5206120000	0.5556	0.6045
5206130000	0.5556	0.6045
5206140000	0.5556	0.6045
5206220000	0.5556	0.6045
5206230000	0.5556	0.6045
5206240000	0.5556	0.6045
5206310000	0.5556	0.6045
5207100000	1.1111	1.2089
5207900000	0.5556	0.6045
5208112020	1.1455	1.2463
5208112040	1.1455	1.2463
5208112090	1.1455	1.2463
5208114020	1.1455	1.2463
5208114060	1.1455	1.2463
5208114090	1.1455	1.2463
5208118090	1.1455	1.2463
5208124020	1.1455	1.2463
5208124040	1.1455	1.2463
5208124090	1.1455	1.2463
5208126020	1.1455	1.2463
5208126040	1.1455	1.2463
5208126060	1.1455	1.2463
5208126090	1.1455	1.2463
5208128020	1.1455	1.2463
5208128090	1.1455	1.2463
5208130000	1.1455	1.2463
5208192020	1.1455	1.2463
5208192090	1.1455	1.2463
5208194020	1.1455	1.2463
5208194090	1.1455	1.2463
5208196020	1.1455	1.2463
5208196090	1.1455	1.2463
5208224040	1.1455	1.2463
5208224090	1.1455	1.2463
5208226020	1.1455	1.2463

IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]			IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]			IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]		
HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.	HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.	HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.
5208226060	1.1455	1.2463	5209316090	1.1455	1.2463	5513110090	0.4009	0.4362
5208228020	1.1455	1.2463	5209320020	1.1455	1.2463	5513120000	0.4009	0.4362
5208230000	1.1455	1.2463	5209320040	1.1455	1.2463	5513130020	0.4009	0.4362
5208292020	1.1455	1.2463	5209390020	1.1455	1.2463	5513210020	0.4009	0.4362
5208292090	1.1455	1.2463	5209390040	1.1455	1.2463	5513310000	0.4009	0.4362
5208294090	1.1455	1.2463	5209390060	1.1455	1.2463	5514120020	0.4009	0.4362
5208296090	1.1455	1.2463	5209390080	1.1455	1.2463	5516420060	0.4009	0.4362
5208298020	1.1455	1.2463	5209390090	1.1455	1.2463	5516910060	0.4009	0.4362
5208312000	1.1455	1.2463	5209413000	1.1455	1.2463	5516930090	0.4009	0.4362
5208321000	1.1455	1.2463	5209416020	1.1455	1.2463	5601210010	1.1455	1.2463
5208323020	1.1455	1.2463	5209416040	1.1455	1.2463	5601210090	1.1455	1.2463
5208323040	1.1455	1.2463	5209420020	1.0309	1.1216	5601300000	1.1455	1.2463
5208323090	1.1455	1.2463	5209420040	1.0309	1.1216	5602109090	0.5727	0.6231
5208324020	1.1455	1.2463	5209430030	1.1455	1.2463	5602290000	1.1455	1.2463
5208324040	1.1455	1.2463	5209430050	1.1455	1.2463	5602906000	0.526	0.5723
5208325020	1.1455	1.2463	5209490020	1.1455	1.2463	5604909000	0.5556	0.6045
5208330000	1.1455	1.2463	5209490090	1.1455	1.2463	5607909000	0.8889	0.9671
5208392020	1.1455	1.2463	5209516035	1.1455	1.2463	5608901000	1.1111	1.2089
5208392090	1.1455	1.2463	5209516050	1.1455	1.2463	5608902300	1.1111	1.2089
5208394090	1.1455	1.2463	5209520020	1.1455	1.2463	5609001000	1.1111	1.2089
5208396090	1.1455	1.2463	5209590025	1.1455	1.2463	5609004000	0.5556	0.6045
5208398020	1.1455	1.2463	5209590040	1.1455	1.2463	5701104000	0.0556	0.0605
5208412000	1.1455	1.2463	5209590090	1.1455	1.2463	5701109000	0.1111	0.1209
5208416000	1.1455	1.2463	5210114020	0.6873	0.7478	5701901010	1.0444	1.1363
5208418000	1.1455	1.2463	5210114040	0.6873	0.7478	5702109020	1.1	1.1968
5208421000	1.1455	1.2463	5210116020	0.6873	0.7478	5702312000	0.0778	0.0846
5208423000	1.1455	1.2463	5210116040	0.6873	0.7478	5702411000	0.0722	0.0786
5208424000	1.1455	1.2463	5210116060	0.6873	0.7478	5702412000	0.0778	0.0846
5208425000	1.1455	1.2463	5210118020	0.6873	0.7478	5702421000	0.0778	0.0846
5208430000	1.1455	1.2463	5210191000	0.6873	0.7478	5702913000	0.0889	0.0967
5208492000	1.1455	1.2463	5210192090	0.6873	0.7478	5702990500	1.1111	1.2089
5208494020	1.1455	1.2463	5210214040	0.6873	0.7478	5702991500	1.1111	1.2089
5208494090	1.1455	1.2463	5210216020	0.6873	0.7478	5703900000	0.4489	0.4884
5208496010	1.1455	1.2463	5210216060	0.6873	0.7478	5801210000	1.1455	1.2463
5208496090	1.1455	1.2463	5210218020	0.6873	0.7478	5801230000	1.1455	1.2463
5208498090	1.1455	1.2463	5210314020	0.6873	0.7478	5801250010	1.1455	1.2463
5208512000	1.1455	1.2463	5210314040	0.6873	0.7478	5801250020	1.1455	1.2463
5208516060	1.1455	1.2463	5210316020	0.6873	0.7478	5801260020	1.1455	1.2463
5208518090	1.1455	1.2463	5210318020	0.6873	0.7478	5802190000	1.1455	1.2463
5208523020	1.1455	1.2463	5210414000	0.6873	0.7478	5802300030	0.5727	0.6231
5208523045	1.1455	1.2463	5210416000	0.6873	0.7478	5804291000	1.1455	1.2463
5208523090	1.1455	1.2463	5210418000	0.6873	0.7478	5806200010	0.3534	0.3845
5208524020	1.1455	1.2463	5210498090	0.6873	0.7478	5806200090	0.3534	0.3845
5208524045	1.1455	1.2463	5210514040	0.6873	0.7478	5806310000	1.1455	1.2463
5208524065	1.1455	1.2463	5210516020	0.6873	0.7478	5806400000	0.4296	0.4674
5208525020	1.1455	1.2463	5210516040	0.6873	0.7478	5808107000	0.5727	0.6231
5208591000	1.1455	1.2463	5210516060	0.6873	0.7478	5808900010	0.5727	0.6231
5208592025	1.1455	1.2463	5211110090	0.6873	0.7478	5811002000	1.1455	1.2463
5208592095	1.1455	1.2463	5211120020	0.6873	0.7478	6001106000	1.1455	1.2463
5208594090	1.1455	1.2463	5211190020	0.6873	0.7478	6001210000	0.8591	0.9347
5208596090	1.1455	1.2463	5211190060	0.6873	0.7478	6001220000	0.2864	0.3116
5209110020	1.1455	1.2463	5211202125	0.6873	0.7478	6001910010	0.8591	0.9347
5209110035	1.1455	1.2463	5211202135	0.4165	0.4532	6001910020	0.8591	0.9347
5209110090	1.1455	1.2463	5211202150	0.6873	0.7478	6001920020	0.2864	0.3116
5209120020	1.1455	1.2463	5211202990	0.6873	0.7478	6001920030	0.2864	0.3116
5209120040	1.1455	1.2463	5211320020	0.6873	0.7478	6001920040	0.2864	0.3116
5209190020	1.1455	1.2463	5211390040	0.6873	0.7478	6003203000	0.8681	0.9445
5209190040	1.1455	1.2463	5211390060	0.6873	0.7478	6003306000	0.2894	0.3149
5209190060	1.1455	1.2463	5211490020	0.6873	0.7478	6003406000	0.2894	0.3149
5209190090	1.1455	1.2463	5211490090	0.6873	0.7478	6005210000	0.8681	0.9445
5209210090	1.1455	1.2463	5211590025	0.6873	0.7478	6005220000	0.8681	0.9445
5209220020	1.1455	1.2463	5212146090	0.9164	0.9970	6005230000	0.8681	0.9445
5209220040	1.1455	1.2463	5212156020	0.9164	0.9970	6005240000	0.8681	0.9445
5209290040	1.1455	1.2463	5212216090	0.9164	0.9970	6005310010	0.2894	0.3149
5209290090	1.1455	1.2463	5509530030	0.5556	0.6045	6005310080	0.2894	0.3149
5209313000	1.1455	1.2463	5509530060	0.5556	0.6045	6005320010	0.2894	0.3149
5209316020	1.1455	1.2463	5513110020	0.4009	0.4362	6005320080	0.2894	0.3149
5209316035	1.1455	1.2463	5513110040	0.4009	0.4362	6005330010	0.2894	0.3149
5209316050	1.1455	1.2463	5513110060	0.4009	0.4362	6005330080	0.2894	0.3149

IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]			IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]			IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]		
HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.	HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.	HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.
6005340010	0.2894	0.3149	6106202030	0.3078	0.3349	6111305050	0.2516	0.2737
6005340080	0.2894	0.3149	6107110010	1.1322	1.2318	6111305070	0.2516	0.2737
6005410010	0.2894	0.3149	6107110020	1.1322	1.2318	6112110050	0.7548	0.8212
6005410080	0.2894	0.3149	6107120010	0.5032	0.5475	6112120010	0.2516	0.2737
6005420010	0.2894	0.3149	6107210010	0.8806	0.9581	6112120030	0.2516	0.2737
6005420080	0.2894	0.3149	6107220015	0.3774	0.4106	6112120040	0.2516	0.2737
6005430010	0.2894	0.3149	6107220025	0.3774	0.4106	6112120050	0.2516	0.2737
6005430080	0.2894	0.3149	6107910040	1.2581	1.3688	6112120060	0.2516	0.2737
6005440010	0.2894	0.3149	6108210010	1.2445	1.3540	6112390010	1.1322	1.2318
6005440080	0.2894	0.3149	6108210020	1.2445	1.3540	6112490010	0.9435	1.0265
6006211000	1.1574	1.2593	6108310010	1.1201	1.2187	6114200005	0.9002	0.9794
6006221000	1.1574	1.2593	6108310020	1.1201	1.2187	6114200010	0.9002	0.9794
6006231000	1.1574	1.2593	6108320010	0.2489	0.2708	6114200015	0.9002	0.9794
6006241000	1.1574	1.2593	6108320015	0.2489	0.2708	6114200020	1.286	1.3992
6006310040	0.1157	0.1259	6108320025	0.2489	0.2708	6114200040	0.9002	0.9794
6006310080	0.1157	0.1259	6108910005	1.2445	1.3540	6114200046	0.9002	0.9794
6006320040	0.1157	0.1259	6108910015	1.2445	1.3540	6114200052	0.9002	0.9794
6006320080	0.1157	0.1259	6108910025	1.2445	1.3540	6114200060	0.9002	0.9794
6006330040	0.1157	0.1259	6108910030	1.2445	1.3540	6114301010	0.2572	0.2798
6006330080	0.1157	0.1259	6108920030	0.2489	0.2708	6114301020	0.2572	0.2798
6006340040	0.1157	0.1259	6109100004	0.9956	1.0832	6114303030	0.2572	0.2798
6006340080	0.1157	0.1259	6109100007	0.9956	1.0832	6115101510	1.0417	1.1334
6006410085	0.1157	0.1259	6109100011	0.9956	1.0832	6115103000	1.0417	1.1334
6006420085	0.1157	0.1259	6109100012	0.9956	1.0832	6115298010	1.0417	1.1334
6006430085	0.1157	0.1259	6109100014	0.9956	1.0832	6115959000	1.0417	1.1334
6006440085	0.1157	0.1259	6109100018	0.9956	1.0832	6115966020	0.2315	0.2519
6101200010	1.0094	1.0982	6109100023	0.9956	1.0832	6116101300	0.3655	0.3977
6101200020	1.0094	1.0982	6109100027	0.9956	1.0832	6116101720	0.8528	0.9278
6102200010	1.0094	1.0982	6109100037	0.9956	1.0832	6116926420	1.0965	1.1930
6102200020	1.0094	1.0982	6109100040	0.9956	1.0832	6116926430	1.2183	1.3255
6103421020	0.8806	0.9581	6109100045	0.9956	1.0832	6116926440	1.0965	1.1930
6103421040	0.8806	0.9581	6109100060	0.9956	1.0832	6116928800	1.0965	1.1930
6103421050	0.8806	0.9581	6109100065	0.9956	1.0832	6117809510	0.9747	1.0605
6103421070	0.8806	0.9581	6109100070	0.9956	1.0832	6117809540	0.3655	0.3977
6103431520	0.2516	0.2737	6109901007	0.3111	0.3385	6201121000	0.948	1.0314
6103431540	0.2516	0.2737	6109901009	0.3111	0.3385	6201122010	0.8953	0.9741
6103431550	0.2516	0.2737	6109901049	0.3111	0.3385	6201122050	0.6847	0.7450
6103431570	0.2516	0.2737	6109901050	0.3111	0.3385	6201122060	0.6847	0.7450
6104220040	0.9002	0.9794	6109901060	0.3111	0.3385	6201134030	0.2633	0.2865
6104220060	0.9002	0.9794	6109901065	0.3111	0.3385	6201921000	0.9267	1.0082
6104320000	0.9207	1.0017	6109901090	0.3111	0.3385	6201921500	1.1583	1.2602
6104420010	0.9002	0.9794	6110202005	1.1837	1.2879	6201922010	1.0296	1.1202
6104420020	0.9002	0.9794	6110202010	1.1837	1.2879	6201922021	1.2871	1.4004
6104520010	0.9312	1.0131	6110202015	1.1837	1.2879	6201922031	1.2871	1.4004
6104520020	0.9312	1.0131	6110202020	1.1837	1.2879	6201922041	1.2871	1.4004
6104622006	0.8806	0.9581	6110202025	1.1837	1.2879	6201922051	1.0296	1.1202
6104622011	0.8806	0.9581	6110202030	1.1837	1.2879	6201922061	1.0296	1.1202
6104622016	0.8806	0.9581	6110202035	1.1837	1.2879	6201931000	0.3089	0.3361
6104622021	0.8806	0.9581	6110202040	1.1574	1.2593	6201933511	0.2574	0.2801
6104622026	0.8806	0.9581	6110202045	1.1574	1.2593	6201933521	0.2574	0.2801
6104622028	0.8806	0.9581	6110202067	1.1574	1.2593	6201999060	0.2574	0.2801
6104622030	0.8806	0.9581	6110202069	1.1574	1.2593	6202121000	0.9372	1.0197
6104622060	0.8806	0.9581	6110202077	1.1574	1.2593	6202122010	1.1064	1.2038
6104632006	0.3774	0.4106	6110202079	1.1574	1.2593	6202122025	1.3017	1.4162
6104632011	0.3774	0.4106	6110909022	0.263	0.2861	6202122050	0.8461	0.9206
6104632026	0.3774	0.4106	6110909024	0.263	0.2861	6202122060	0.8461	0.9206
6104632028	0.3774	0.4106	6110909030	0.3946	0.4293	6202134005	0.2664	0.2898
6104632030	0.3774	0.4106	6110909040	0.263	0.2861	6202134020	0.333	0.3623
6104632060	0.3774	0.4106	6110909042	0.263	0.2861	6202921000	1.0413	1.1329
6104692030	0.3858	0.4198	6111201000	1.2581	1.3688	6202921500	1.0413	1.1329
6105100010	0.985	1.0717	6111202000	1.2581	1.3688	6202922026	1.3017	1.4162
6105100020	0.985	1.0717	6111203000	1.0064	1.0950	6202922061	1.0413	1.1329
6105100030	0.985	1.0717	6111205000	1.0064	1.0950	6202922071	1.0413	1.1329
6105202010	0.3078	0.3349	6111206010	1.0064	1.0950	6202931000	0.3124	0.3399
6105202030	0.3078	0.3349	6111206020	1.0064	1.0950	6202935011	0.2603	0.2832
6106100010	0.985	1.0717	6111206030	1.0064	1.0950	6202935021	0.2603	0.2832
6106100020	0.985	1.0717	6111206050	1.0064	1.0950	6203122010	0.1302	0.1417
6106100030	0.985	1.0717	6111206070	1.0064	1.0950	6203221000	1.3017	1.4162
6106202010	0.3078	0.3349	6111305020	0.2516	0.2737	6203322010	1.2366	1.3454

IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]			IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]			IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE— Continued [Raw cotton fiber]		
HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.	HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.	HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.
6203322040	1.2366	1.3454	6204633540	0.2437	0.2651	6211330035	0.3905	0.4249
6203332010	0.1302	0.1417	6204692510	0.249	0.2709	6211330040	0.3905	0.4249
6203392010	1.1715	1.2746	6204692540	0.2437	0.2651	6211420010	1.0413	1.1329
6203399060	0.2603	0.2832	6204699044	0.249	0.2709	6211420020	1.0413	1.1329
6203422010	0.9961	1.0838	6204699046	0.249	0.2709	6211420025	1.1715	1.2746
6203422025	0.9961	1.0838	6204699050	0.249	0.2709	6211420060	1.0413	1.1329
6203422050	0.9961	1.0838	6205202016	0.9961	1.0838	6211420070	1.1715	1.2746
6203422090	0.9961	1.0838	6205202021	0.9961	1.0838	6211430010	0.2603	0.2832
6203424006	1.2451	1.3547	6205202026	0.9961	1.0838	6211430030	0.2603	0.2832
6203424011	1.2451	1.3547	6205202031	0.9961	1.0838	6211430040	0.2603	0.2832
6203424016	0.9961	1.0838	6205202036	1.1206	1.2192	6211430050	0.2603	0.2832
6203424021	1.2451	1.3547	6205202047	0.9961	1.0838	6211430060	0.2603	0.2832
6203424026	1.2451	1.3547	6205202051	0.9961	1.0838	6211430066	0.2603	0.2832
6203424031	1.2451	1.3547	6205202061	0.9961	1.0838	6212105020	0.2412	0.2624
6203424036	1.2451	1.3547	6205202066	0.9961	1.0838	6212109010	0.9646	1.0495
6203424041	0.9961	1.0838	6205202071	0.9961	1.0838	6212109020	0.2412	0.2624
6203424046	0.9961	1.0838	6205202076	0.9961	1.0838	6212200020	0.3014	0.3279
6203424051	0.9238	1.0051	6205302010	0.3113	0.3387	6212900030	0.1929	0.2099
6203424056	0.9238	1.0051	6205302030	0.3113	0.3387	6213201000	1.1809	1.2848
6203424061	0.9238	1.0051	6205302040	0.3113	0.3387	6213202000	1.0628	1.1563
6203431500	0.1245	0.1355	6205302050	0.3113	0.3387	6213901000	0.4724	0.5140
6203434010	0.1232	0.1340	6205302080	0.3113	0.3387	6214900010	0.9043	0.9839
6203434020	0.1232	0.1340	6206100040	0.1245	0.1355	6216000800	0.2351	0.2558
6203434030	0.1232	0.1340	6206303011	0.9961	1.0838	6216001720	0.6752	0.7346
6203434040	0.1232	0.1340	6206303021	0.9961	1.0838	6216003800	1.2058	1.3119
6203498045	0.249	0.2709	6206303031	0.9961	1.0838	6216004100	1.2058	1.3119
6204132010	0.1302	0.1417	6206303041	0.9961	1.0838	6217109510	1.0182	1.1078
6204192000	0.1302	0.1417	6206303051	0.9961	1.0838	6217109530	0.2546	0.2770
6204198090	0.2603	0.2832	6206303061	0.9961	1.0838	6301300010	0.8766	0.9537
6204221000	1.3017	1.4162	6206403010	0.3113	0.3387	6301300020	0.8766	0.9537
6204223030	1.0413	1.1329	6206403030	0.3113	0.3387	6302100005	1.1689	1.2718
6204223040	1.0413	1.1329	6206900040	0.249	0.2709	6302100008	1.1689	1.2718
6204223050	1.0413	1.1329	6207110000	1.0852	1.1807	6302100015	1.1689	1.2718
6204223060	1.0413	1.1329	6207199010	0.3617	0.3935	6302215010	0.8182	0.8902
6204223065	1.0413	1.1329	6207210030	1.1085	1.2060	6302215020	0.8182	0.8902
6204292040	0.3254	0.3540	6207220000	0.3695	0.4020	6302217010	1.1689	1.2718
6204322010	1.2366	1.3454	6207911000	1.1455	1.2463	6302217020	1.1689	1.2718
6204322030	1.0413	1.1329	6207913010	1.1455	1.2463	6302217050	1.1689	1.2718
6204322040	1.0413	1.1329	6207913020	1.1455	1.2463	6302219010	0.8182	0.8902
6204423010	1.2728	1.3848	6208210010	1.0583	1.1514	6302219020	0.8182	0.8902
6204423030	0.9546	1.0386	6208210020	1.0583	1.1514	6302219050	0.8182	0.8902
6204423040	0.9546	1.0386	6208220000	0.1245	0.1355	6302222010	0.4091	0.4451
6204423050	0.9546	1.0386	6208911010	1.1455	1.2463	6302222020	0.4091	0.4451
6204423060	0.9546	1.0386	6208911020	1.1455	1.2463	6302313010	0.8182	0.8902
6204522010	1.2654	1.3768	6208913010	1.1455	1.2463	6302313050	1.1689	1.2718
6204522030	1.2654	1.3768	6209201000	1.1577	1.2596	6302315050	0.8182	0.8902
6204522040	1.2654	1.3768	6209203000	0.9749	1.0607	6302317010	1.1689	1.2718
6204522070	1.0656	1.1594	6209205030	0.9749	1.0607	6302317020	1.1689	1.2718
6204522080	1.0656	1.1594	6209205035	0.9749	1.0607	6302317040	1.1689	1.2718
6204533010	0.2664	0.2898	6209205040	1.2186	1.3258	6302317050	1.1689	1.2718
6204594060	0.2664	0.2898	6209205045	0.9749	1.0607	6302319010	0.8182	0.8902
6204622010	0.9961	1.0838	6209205050	0.9749	1.0607	6302319040	0.8182	0.8902
6204622025	0.9961	1.0838	6209303020	0.2463	0.2680	6302319050	0.8182	0.8902
6204622050	0.9961	1.0838	6209303040	0.2463	0.2680	6302322020	0.4091	0.4451
6204624006	1.2451	1.3547	6210109010	0.2291	0.2493	6302322040	0.4091	0.4451
6204624011	1.2451	1.3547	6210403000	0.0391	0.0425	6302402010	0.9935	1.0809
6204624021	0.9961	1.0838	6210405020	0.4556	0.4957	6302511000	0.5844	0.6358
6204624026	1.2451	1.3547	6211111010	0.1273	0.1385	6302512000	0.8766	0.9537
6204624031	1.2451	1.3547	6211111020	0.1273	0.1385	6302513000	0.5844	0.6358
6204624036	1.2451	1.3547	6211118010	1.1455	1.2463	6302514000	0.8182	0.8902
6204624041	1.2451	1.3547	6211118020	1.1455	1.2463	6302600010	1.1689	1.2718
6204624046	0.9961	1.0838	6211320007	0.8461	0.9206	6302600020	1.052	1.1446
6204624051	0.9961	1.0838	6211320010	1.0413	1.1329	6302600030	1.052	1.1446
6204624056	0.9854	1.0721	6211320015	1.0413	1.1329	6302910005	1.052	1.1446
6204624061	0.9854	1.0721	6211320030	0.9763	1.0622	6302910015	1.1689	1.2718
6204624066	0.9854	1.0721	6211320060	0.9763	1.0622	6302910025	1.052	1.1446
6204633510	0.2546	0.2770	6211320070	0.9763	1.0622	6302910035	1.052	1.1446
6204633530	0.2546	0.2770	6211330010	0.3254	0.3540	6302910045	1.052	1.1446
6204633532	0.2437	0.2651	6211330030	0.3905	0.4249	6302910050	1.052	1.1446

IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE—
Continued
[Raw cotton fiber]

HTS No.	Conv. fact.	Cents/kg.
6302910060	1.052	1.1446
6303191100	0.9448	1.0279
6303910010	0.6429	0.6995
6303910020	0.6429	0.6995
6304111000	1.0629	1.1564
6304190500	1.052	1.1446
6304191000	1.1689	1.2718
6304191500	0.4091	0.4451
6304192000	0.4091	0.4451
6304910020	0.9351	1.0174
6304920000	0.9351	1.0174
6505901540	0.181	0.1969
6505902060	0.9935	1.0809
6505902545	0.5844	0.6358

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Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2101–2118.

Dated: April 6, 2009.

Robert C. Keeney,

Acting Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. E9–8175 Filed 4–9–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

15 CFR Part 801

[Docket No. 080731107–81012–01]

RIN 0691–AA69

International Services Surveys: BE–140, Benchmark Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would amend regulations of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce (BEA) to set forth the reporting requirements for the Benchmark Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies with Foreign Persons. This proposed rule is for a new survey, which would collect data on cross-border reinsurance and other insurance transactions from U.S. insurance companies. If approved, the survey would be conducted every five years with the first survey covering calendar year 2008.

The data will be used by BEA in estimating the insurance services component of the U.S. International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and other economic accounts compiled by BEA.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule will receive consideration if submitted in writing on or before 5 p.m. June 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by RIN 0691–AA69, and referencing the agency name (Bureau of Economic Analysis), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

For agency, select “Commerce Department—all.”

- *E-mail:*

Christopher.Emond@bea.gov.

- *Fax:* Chris Emond, Chief, Special Surveys Branch, (202) 606–5318.

- *Mail:* Chris Emond, Chief, Special Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, BE–50, Washington, DC 20230.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Chris Emond, Chief, Special Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, BE–50, Shipping and Receiving Section, M100, 1441 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

Public Inspection: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change.

All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commentator may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. BEA will accept anonymous comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposed rule would amend 15 CFR 801.9(a) and create 15 CFR 801.12 to add the reporting requirements for the BE–140, Benchmark Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies with Foreign Persons. This new survey would be mandatory for those U.S. insurance companies that exceed the exemption level and that engage in the covered transactions. The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as

required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Description of Changes

The proposed survey would be conducted by BEA every five years, with the first survey covering calendar year 2008, under the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101–3108), hereinafter, “the Act.” For the initial survey, BEA would send the survey to potential respondents in June of 2009; responses would be due by September 1, 2009.

If implemented, the survey would collect information from U.S. insurance companies on the following covered transactions: (1) Premiums earned, and (2) losses, on reinsurance assumed; (3) premiums incurred, and (4) losses, on reinsurance ceded; (5) premiums earned, and (6) losses, on primary insurance sold; (7) sales of, and (8) purchases of, auxiliary insurance services. The exemption level for the proposed survey is \$2 million based on one of the eight categories listed above. Insurance companies that exceed this threshold must supply data on the amount of their insurance transactions for each category, disaggregated by country.

U.S. insurance companies that are exempt from the reporting requirements because they do not meet the criteria for reporting the BE–140 survey form are requested to provide, on a voluntary basis, the estimates of their covered insurance transactions. Any U.S. insurance company that receives the BE–140 survey form from BEA, but that does not report data because they are exempt under the regulations, must provide information on the reason why they do not wish to voluntarily provide the requested information. This requirement is necessary to ensure compliance with reporting requirements and efficient administration of the Act by eliminating unnecessary follow-up contact. If a U.S. insurance company does not receive the BE–140 survey form and is not otherwise required to report under these regulations, then the company is not required to take any action.

BEA maintains a continuing dialogue with respondents and with data users, including its own internal users, to ensure that, as far as possible, the required data serve their intended purposes and are available from the existing records, that instructions are clear, and that unreasonable burdens are not imposed. In reaching decisions on what questions to include in the survey, BEA considered the Government’s need for the data, the burden imposed on