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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Request for Information: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) High Performance Bonuses

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Congress allows the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Secretary) considerable discretion to establish criteria and standards for evaluating the performances of State agencies and to monetarily reward State agencies that improve or excel in the agency's administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The recently enacted Agricultural Act of 2014 (Act) includes changes to the performance bonus system. States are now required by statute to reinvest any SNAP bonuses in the SNAP program. As a complement to these changes, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is soliciting ideas for performance criteria and standards for high and most improved performance from State agencies and organizations that represent State interests prior to issuance of any proposed rules regarding changes to the criteria in determining SNAP high performance bonuses. FNS announces in this notice a request for information about current performance measures and data collection capabilities possessed by SNAP State agencies; data and information needed to assess other areas of SNAP being considered for a future high or most improved performance bonuses; and suggestions for linking bonus categories to ensure winners in one category meet minimum performance standards in other categories in order to qualify for any high or most improved performance bonus. FNS will consider this information in developing a proposed

rule to revise the current high or most improved performance bonus structure.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before July 23, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to Patrick Lucrezio, Chief, Program Accountability and Administration Division, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 822, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be faxed to the attention of Mr. Lucrezio at (703) 305-2454, or via email to SNAPHQ-Web@FNS.USDA.GOV. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the FNS office located at 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302, Room 800, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday).

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this request for information should be directed to Mr. Lucrezio at (703) 305-2498.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 16(d)(2)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 requires the Secretary to issue regulations to award a total of \$48 million to States that demonstrate high or most improved performance in administering SNAP.

Section 16(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 was amended by the Act to require that bonus monies had to be invested in the program established by the Food and Nutrition Act. While not an exclusive list, the Act specified areas where the bonus monies could be used. These areas included: investments in technology; improvements in administration and distribution; and actions to prevent fraud, waste and abuse. High or most improved performance bonus regulations at 7 CFR 275.24, currently provides four categories for SNAP bonus awards: payment accuracy, case and procedural error rates (formerly known as the negative error rates), program access index, and application processing timeliness. In order to

address performance in other SNAP priority areas, FNS is considering changes to the current bonus structure. First, FNS is considering expanding the scope of performance bonuses to three new categories, employment and training; recipient integrity; and SNAP nutrition education. Second, FNS is considering how to address the concern that, in past years, some State agencies have received bonuses in some areas of SNAP, but have not performed well in other bonus category areas. Linking performance awards to a certain minimum level of performance in every category could avoid such inconsistencies.

With regards to the new categories, additional metrics would need to be developed as well as additional methods of determining performance, because not all categories under consideration are solely quantitative in nature. Some evaluation criteria may require using qualitative metrics. In light of these challenges, FNS welcomes all ideas that might contribute to developing a system to measure and award the best performance in these categories.

Per Section 16(d) (2)(A)(iii) of the Act, FNS must solicit information from State agencies and organizations that represent State interests on these issues before publishing a proposed regulation. In requesting ideas, FNS would like to remind responders that the Food and Nutrition Act specifies that \$48 million are available for SNAP high or most improved performance bonuses and that payment accuracy bonuses are required by law. A change in the total bonus amount may only be made through an act of Congress.

In particular, FNS is seeking information on the following questions:

1. Do State agencies currently utilize or possess performance measurement methods or tools to evaluate new categories such as employment and training, recipient integrity, and SNAP nutrition education?

2. What evaluation tools should be developed in order to analyze new issue categories such as employment and training, recipient integrity, and SNAP nutrition education?

3. Are there any other areas of SNAP that should be considered as a possible category that is eligible for a high or most improved performance bonus?

4. What changes to the bonus system would States agencies suggest to ensure

that minimum performance standards were met in all categories by awardees?

5. What minimum performance levels do States suggest for all high or most improved performance bonus categories, including those new categories under consideration by FNS?

6. How do States suggest that the \$48 million be distributed among the current and new categories?

7. Do States suggest the elimination or changes in any of the current categories evaluated for performance: application timeliness, case and procedural error rate, and program access index?

8. Do States anticipate an increase in administrative expenditures or other impact if SNAP restructures its current high or most improved performance bonus system? If yes, please explain.

9. How much time would be required for State agencies to adjust their systems and reporting mechanisms in order to provide sufficient information to evaluate performance in the new categories of employment and training, recipient integrity, and SNAP nutrition education?

Dated: April 11, 2014.

Audrey Rowe,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-09332 Filed 4-23-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-108-2013]

Foreign-Trade Zone 22—Chicago, Illinois, Authorization of Limited Production Activity, Electrolux Home Care Products Inc. (Kitting of Home Care Products), Minooka, Illinois

On December 19, 2013, the Illinois International Port District, grantee of FTZ 22, submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board on behalf of Electrolux Home Care Products Inc., within Site 34 of FTZ 22, in Minooka, Illinois.

The notification was processed in accordance with the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400), including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public comment (78 FR 79391-79392, 12/30/2013). The FTZ Board has determined that further review of part of the proposed activity is warranted at this time. The production activity described in the notification is authorized on a limited basis, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.14, and further subject to a restriction requiring that

inputs classified within HTSUS 5911.10, 5911.40, 5911.90 and 6307.10 be admitted in privileged foreign status or domestic (duty-paid) status.

Dated: April 18, 2014.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2014-09359 Filed 4-23-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-107-2013]

Foreign-Trade Zone 265—Conroe, Texas; Authorization of Production Activity; Bauer Manufacturing Inc. (Pile Drivers, Boring Machinery, and Foundation Construction Equipment); Conroe, Texas

On December 18, 2014, the City of Conroe, Texas, grantee of FTZ 265, submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board on behalf of Bauer Manufacturing Inc., within FTZ 265—Site 1, in Conroe, Texas.

The notification was processed in accordance with the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400), including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public comment (78 FR 79390, 12-30-2013). The FTZ Board has determined that no further review of the activity is warranted at this time. The production activity described in the notification is authorized, subject to the FTZ Act and the FTZ Board's regulations, including Section 400.14.

Dated: April 18, 2014.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2014-09360 Filed 4-23-14; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Determination Under the Textile and Apparel Commercial Availability Provision of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement ("KORUS FTA")

AGENCY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

ACTION: Determination to add a product in unrestricted quantities to Annex 4-B-1 of the KORUS FTA Agreement.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 24, 2014.

SUMMARY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements ("CITA") has determined that certain

cashmere yarns, as specified below, are not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the United States. The product will be added to the list in Annex 4-B-1 of the KORUS FTA in unrestricted quantities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pamela Kirkland, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3587.

For Further Information On-Line: http://web.ita.doc.gov/tacgi/FTA_CA_Broadcast.nsf//KoreaPetitionsApproved under "Approved Requests," Reference number: 2.2014.03.18.Yarn.Heritage CashmereKoreaCo, Ltd

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

KORUS FTA; Section 202(o) of the United States—Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act ("Act"), Public Law 112-41; and Presidential Proclamation No. 8783 (77 FR 14265, March 9, 2012).

Background

Article 4.2.6 of the KORUS FTA provides for a list in Appendix 4-B-1 for fibers, yarns, and fabrics that the United States has determined are not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner from suppliers in the United States ("Commercial Availability List"). A textile or apparel good imported into the United States containing fibers, yarns, or fabrics that are included on the Commercial Availability List in Appendix 4-B-1 of the KORUS FTA will be treated as if it is an originating good for purposes of the specific rules of origin in Annex 4-A of the KORUS FTA, regardless of the actual origin of those inputs, in accordance with the specific rules of origin of Annex 4-A.

Section 202(o)(3)(F) of the Act provides that the President shall establish procedures under sections 202(o)(3)(C) and (E) in order to determine whether fibers, yarns, or fabrics are not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the United States, and whether a fiber, yarn, or fabric should be removed from the Commercial Availability List in Appendix 4-B-1 when it has become available in commercial quantities.

In Proclamation No. 8783 (77 FR 14265, March 9, 2012), the President delegated to CITA his authority under the commercial availability provision to establish procedures for modifying the list of fibers, yarns, or fabrics not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner, as set out in Annex 4-B of the KORUS FTA.

Pursuant to this delegation, on March 19, 2012, CITA published Interim