

and use quality assurance to identify systemic barriers to participation in adjudicatory proceedings.⁸

ACUS is undertaking this project to examine more comprehensively how agencies are using and might better use customer service methods to improve administrative programs and procedures. A team of leading scholars will submit a report to ACUS that will examine methods, such as public engagement and data analysis, that agencies can use to identify unnecessary burdens that members of the public face when they engage with administrative programs or participate in administrative processes. The project will also assess strategies for reducing unnecessary burdens, such as streamlining processes and digitizing services. Based on this research, a committee of ACUS members will develop proposed recommendations to agencies of best practices for possible consideration by the ACUS Assembly. Visit <https://www.acus.gov/research-projects> to learn more about how ACUS develops recommendations.

Specific Topics for Public Comment

ACUS welcomes views, information, and data on all aspects of strategies that agencies are using or might use to identify and reduce unnecessary burdens that members of the public face when they engage with administrative programs or participate in administrative processes. ACUS also seeks specific feedback on the following questions related to agencies' burden-reduction efforts:

1. What has been your experience interacting with an agency regarding a benefit or service that you are applying for or renewing, for example unemployment insurance or student loan assistance? Was any portion of the process especially easy or particularly difficult? Do you have specific suggestions for reducing burdens?

2. What has been your experience trying to use a government benefit or service that you are receiving? For example, how easy or difficult is it to use your food stamps, Medicaid health insurance, or Medicare health insurance? Do you have specific suggestions for reducing burdens in programs with which you have interacted?

3. Have you experienced any unintended consequences from agencies' burden-reduction efforts? For example, have an agency's attempts to reduce one burden created others, either

for members of the public or for agency officials?

4. Are you aware of specific, temporary burden reductions instituted during the COVID-19 pandemic that you believe should be made permanent? This can include (and please specify, if possible) burden-reduction efforts that agencies can implement under current statutes as well as those that would require statutory changes.

5. Are there existing legal impediments that have slowed or stopped efforts to identify or reduce burdens? If so, please describe examples, especially those that you believe would have the greatest burden-reduction impact.

6. What has been your experience regarding collaborations between agencies and other public- and private-sector organizations when trying to reduce burdens. Please describe whether these collaborations were successful and describe any factors (*e.g.*, statutory, organizational, other) that either enhanced or impeded the collaboration.

7. What role can private-sector groups play in helping to reduce burdens, and how can government agencies encourage such actions? For example, how might regulations on access and sharing of personal financial data be structured to encourage private-sector groups to provide tools to reduce burdens that members of the public experience when they apply for, engage with, or participate in federal programs?

Dated: February 9, 2023.

Shawne McGibbon,
General Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2023-0001]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Export Health Certificate for Animal Products

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an

information collection associated with the export of animal products from the United States.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 17, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS-2023-0001 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2023-0001, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at regulations.gov or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1620 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the export of animal products from the United States, contact Dr. Katrina Fox, DVM, Animal Products Import and Export, Strategy & Policy, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-3083; katrina.fox@usda.gov. For information on the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851-2483; joseph.moxey@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Export Health Certificate for Animal Products.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0256.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The export of agricultural commodities, including animals and animal products, is a major business in the United States and contributes to a favorable balance of trade. To facilitate the export of U.S. animals and animal products, U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains information regarding the import health requirements of other countries for animals and animal products exported from the United States. The regulations for export certification of animals and animal products are contained in 9 CFR parts 91 and 156.

⁸ Admin. Conf. of the U.S., Recommendation 2021-10, *Quality Assurance Systems in Agency Adjudication*, 87 FR 1722 (Jan. 12, 2022).

Many countries that import animal products from the United States require a certification from APHIS that the United States is free of certain diseases. They may also require that our certification statement contain additional declarations regarding the U.S. animal products being exported. This certification must carry the USDA seal and be endorsed by an APHIS representative (e.g., a Veterinary Medical Officer). The certification process involves the use of information collection activities including an animal products export certificate and request for a hearing. An exporter may request a hearing to appeal an APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) decision not to grant a certificate because an exporter is not meeting certain requirements in part 156 of the regulations or if a certificate is denied or withdrawn by VS if it is determined that an issued certificate has been altered or parts imitated.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.32 hours per response.

Respondents: Exporters of U.S. animal products.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 32,687.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 5.5.

Estimated annual number of responses: 179,318.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 58,165 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual

number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All 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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of February 2023.

Anthony Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-03137 Filed 2-14-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2022-0028]

Addition of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia to the List of Regions Affected With African Swine Fever

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we added the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia to the list of regions that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service considers to be affected by African swine fever (ASF). We have taken these actions because of confirmation of ASF in the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia.

DATES: The Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia were added to the list of regions APHIS considers to be affected with ASF, effective respectively on January 20, 2022, and February 3, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding ASF in the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of North Macedonia, contact Dr. John Grabau, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Strategy and Policy, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 920 Main Campus Drive, Venture II, Raleigh, NC 27606; phone: (919) 855-7225; email: AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of specified animals and animal products to prevent the introduction into the United States of various animal diseases, including African swine fever (ASF). ASF is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic swine that can spread rapidly in swine populations with extremely high rates of morbidity and mortality.

A list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist is maintained on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>. This list is referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) of the regulations.

Section 94.8(a)(3) of the regulations states that APHIS will add a region to the list referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) upon determining ASF exists in the region, based on reports APHIS receives of outbreaks of the disease from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH),¹ or from other sources the Administrator determines to be reliable, or upon determining that there is reason to believe the disease exists in the region. Section 94.8(a)(1) of the regulations specifies the criteria on which the Administrator bases the reason to believe ASF exists in a region. Section 94.8(b) prohibits the importation of pork and pork products from regions listed in accordance with § 94.8, except if processed and treated in accordance with the provisions specified in that section or consigned to an APHIS-approved establishment for further processing. Section 96.2 restricts the importation of swine casings that originated in or were processed in a region where ASF exists, as listed under § 94.8(a).

On January 14, 2022, the veterinary authorities of the Kingdom of Thailand reported to the WOAH an ASF occurrence in that country. On January 20, 2022, in response to the outbreak, APHIS added the Kingdom of Thailand to the list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist. As a result, pork and pork products from the Kingdom of Thailand, including casings, are subject to APHIS import restrictions designed to mitigate the risk of ASF introduction into the United States.

On January 10, 2022, the veterinary authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia reported to the WOAH an ASF occurrence in that country. On February 3, 2022, in response to the outbreak, APHIS added the Republic of North Macedonia to the list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist. As a result, pork and pork products from the Republic of North Macedonia, including casings, are

¹ The World Organization for Animal Health internationally follows a British English spelling of "organisation" in its name; it was formerly the Office International des Epizooties, or OIE, but on May 28, 2022, the Organization announced that the acronym was changed from OIE to WOAH.