DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2023–N–1529]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Voluntary Qualified Importer Program

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, Agency, or we) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the Agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Federal Agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information collection associated with FDA's Voluntary Qualified Importer Program.

DATES: Either electronic or written comments on the collection of information must be submitted by July 10, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered. The *https://www.regulations.gov* electronic filing system will accept comments until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time at the end of July 10, 2023. Comments received by mail/hand delivery/courier (for written/paper submissions) will be considered timely if they are received on or before that date.

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to *https://www.regulations.gov* will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on *https://www.regulations.gov.*
- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see ''Written/Paper Submissions'' and ''Instructions'').

Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- Mail/Hand delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions): Dockets Management Staff (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in ''Instructions.''

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA–2023–N–1529 for ''Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Voluntary Qualified Importer Program.'' Received comments, those filed in a timely manner (see **ADDRESSES**), will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as ''Confidential Submissions,'' publicly viewable at *https://www.regulations.gov* or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240–402–7500.

- Confidential Submissions—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states ''THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.'' The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on *https://www.regulations.gov.* Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as ''confidential.'' Any information marked as ''confidential'' will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: *https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf.*

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the ''Search'' box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240–402–7500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Showalter, Office of Operations, Food and Drug Administration, Three White Flint North, 10A–12M, 11601 Landsdown St., North Bethesda, MD 20852, 240–994–7399, *PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521), Federal Agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. ''Collection of information'' is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes Agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal Agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, FDA is publishing notice of the proposed collection of information set forth in this document.

With respect to the following collection of information, FDA invites comments on these topics: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FDA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FDA'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 respondents, including through the use

of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

Voluntary Qualified Importer Program

OMB Control Number 0910–0840—Extension

This information collection supports implementation of FDA's Voluntary Qualified Importer Program (VQIP), a voluntary fee-based program that provides expedited review and import entry of human and animal foods into the United States. Program participants may import products to the United States with greater speed and predictability, avoiding unexpected delays at the point of import entry. Importers interested in applying can start their application by submitting a notice of intent to participate after setting up an account through the FDA Industry Systems (FIS) website at *https://www.access.fda.gov,* which includes a VQIP Portal User Guide. To participate, importers must meet eligibility criteria and pay a user fee that covers costs associated with FDA's administration of the program. Consistent with section 743(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 379j-31(b)(1)), FDA will publish in the **Federal Register** a schedule of fees applicable to VQIP.

Respondents to the information collection are persons that bring food, or cause food to be brought, from a foreign country into the customs territory of the United States (section 806 of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 384b)) as a VQIP importer. A VQIP importer can be located outside the United States. Persons who may be a VQIP importer include the manufacturer, owner, consignee, and importer of record of a food, provided that the importer can meet all the criteria for participation. To assist respondents with the information collection, we developed the guidance document entitled, ''FDA's Voluntary Qualified Importer Program'' (issued November 2016, finalized March 2022), available at *https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/guidance-industry-fdas-voluntary-qualified-importer-program.* The guidance document is prepared in a question-and-answer format and discusses eligibility criteria; includes instruction for completing a VQIP application; explains conditions that may result in revocation of participation as well as criteria for reinstatement; and communicates benefits VQIP importers can expect to receive under the program. The guidance also discusses preparation of the ''Quality Assurance Program (QAP),'' a compilation of written policies and procedures used to ensure adequate control over the safety and security of foods being imported. The guidance document was developed and issued consistent with FDA Good Guidance Practice regulations in 21 CFR part 10.115, which provides for public comment at any time.

We estimate the burden of this collection of information as follows:

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN [1]

Reporting using FIS VQIP portal	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total annual responses	Average burden per response	Total hours
Initial VQIP application	5	1	5	180	900
Application Renewals—subsequent year	6	1	6	20	120
Requests for reinstatement	2	1	2	10	20
Total			13		1040

[1] There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this collection of information.

TABLE 2—ESTIMATED ANNUAL RECORDKEEPING BURDEN [1]

VQIP Participant Records Consistent with Implementing Guidance	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total annual responses	Average burden per response	Total hours
Quality Assurance Program (QAP) preparation	5	1	5	160	800
QAP maintenance and updates	6	1	6	16	96
Total			11		896

[1] There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this collection of information.

Since our last request for OMB approval of the information collection, we have adjusted our estimate of the number of respondents based on actual participation in the program. We assume the average burden required for the respective reporting and recordkeeping activities for both initial and continued participation in the program remain constant, however we invite comment in this regard.

Dated: May 8, 2023.

Lauren K. Roth,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2023–10053 Filed 5–10–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality (Formerly the Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality)

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.