

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

JOINT BOARD FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF ACTUARIES

Meeting of the Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Executive Director of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries gives notice of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations (portions of which will be open to the public) in Washington, DC at the Office of Professional Responsibility on June 30 and July 1, 2003.

DATES: Monday, June 30, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, July 1, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Suite 4200E, Conference Room, Fourth Floor, East Tower, Franklin Court Building, 1099 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick W. McDonough, Executive Director of the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, 202-694-1858.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Committee on Actuarial Examinations will meet in Suite 4200E, Conference Room, Fourth Floor, East Tower, Franklin Court Building, 1099 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC on Monday, June 30, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, July 1, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss topics and questions which may be recommended for inclusion on future Joint Board examinations in actuarial mathematics and methodology referred to in 29 U.S.C. 1242(a)(1)(B) and to review the May 2003 Basic (EA-1) and Pension (EA-2B) Joint Board Examinations in order to make

recommendations relative thereto, including the minimum acceptable pass score. Topics for inclusion on the syllabus for the Joint Board's examination program for the November 2003 Pension (EA-2A) Examination will be discussed.

A determination has been made as required by section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., that the portions of the meeting dealing with the discussion of questions which may appear on the Joint Board's examinations and review of the May 2003 Joint Board examinations fall within the exceptions to the open meeting requirement set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), and that the public interest requires that such portions be closed to public participation.

The portion of the meeting dealing with the discussion of the other topics will commence at 1 p.m. on July 1 and will continue for as long as necessary to complete the discussion, but not beyond 3 p.m. Time permitting, after the close of this discussion by Committee members, interested persons may make statements germane to this subject. Persons wishing to make oral statements must notify the Executive Director in writing prior to the meeting in order to aid in scheduling the time available and must submit the written text, or at a minimum, an outline of comments they propose to make orally. Such comments will be limited to 10 minutes in length. All other persons planning to attend the public session must also notify the Executive Director in writing to obtain building entry. Notifications of intent to make an oral statement or to attend must be faxed, no later than June 20, 2003, to 202-694-1876, Attn: Executive Director. Any interested person also may file a written statement for consideration by the Joint Board and the Committee by sending it to the Executive Director: Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries, c/o Internal Revenue Service, Attn: Executive Director N:C:SC:OPR, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

Dated: May 30, 2003.

Patrick W. McDonough,

Executive Director, Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries.

[FR Doc. 03-14463 Filed 6-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek OMB Approval To Collect Information: Forms Pertaining to the Peer Review of ARS Research Projects

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and OMB implementing regulations. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by August 13, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments or request additional information regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Marcia Moore, Peer Review Program Coordinator; Office of Scientific Quality Review; Agricultural Research Agency, USDA; 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5142; Beltsville, Maryland; 20705.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marcia Moore, Agricultural Research Service Peer Review Program Coordinator, 301-504-3282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Scientific Quality Review will seek approval from OMB to update six existing forms that will allow the ARS to efficiently manage data associated with the peer review of agricultural research. All forms are transferred and received in an electronic storage format that does not include on-line access.

Abstract: The Office of Scientific Quality Review was established in September of 1999 as a result of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act 1998 ("The Act")(Pub. L. 105-185). The Act included mandates to perform scientific peer reviews of all research activities conducted by the USDA. The Office manages the ARS peer review system by centrally planning peer panel reviews for ARS research projects on a five-year

cycle. Each set of reviews is assigned a chairperson to govern the review process. The majority of the peer reviewers are non-ARS scientists. Peer review panels are convened to provide in-depth discussion and review of the research project plans. Each panel reviewer receives information on 1–25 ARS research projects.

A total of about 220 research projects are reviewed annually by an estimated 100 reviewers; whereby approximately 200 are reviewed by panel and approximately 20 are reviewed by an ad hoc process. The organization and management of this peer review system, particularly panel reviews, is highly dependent on the use of forms.

The Office of Scientific Quality Review will seek OMB approval of the following forms:

1. Confidentiality Agreement Form—USDA uses this form to document that a selected reviewer is responsible for keeping confidential any information learned during the subject peer review process. The Confidentiality Agreement is signed prior to the reviewer’s involvement in the peer review process. This form requires an original signature.

2. Panelist Informational Form—USDA uses this form to gather up-to-date background information about the reviewer. Reviewers often include sensitive information on this form. This form requires an original signature.

3. Peer Review of an ARS Research Project Form (Peer Review Form)—USDA uses this form to guide the reviewer’s comments on the subject project. The form contains the reviewing criteria and space for the reviewer’s narrative comments and evaluation.

4. Recommendations for ARS Research Project Form—(Recommendations Form, formerly known as “Critique Form”) USDA uses this form to guide the panel’s evaluation and critique of the review process. The form contains recommendations for the subject research project.

5. Panel Expense Report Form (Expense Report)—USDA uses this form to document a panel reviewer’s expense incurred traveling to and attending a peer review meeting. The Expense Report includes lodging, meals, and

transportation expenses. When completed, the form contains sensitive information.

Panel Invoice Form (Invoice)—USDA uses this form to document the transfer of a stipend to a peer reviewer. Reviewers receive stipends as compensation for serving as peer review panelists. This form requires an original signature.

(1) USDA’s collection of information on the Confidentiality Agreement Form is needed to document that a selected reviewer is responsible for keeping confidential any information learned during the subject peer review process. The Confidentiality Agreement would be signed prior to the reviewer’s involvement in the peer review process.

(2) USDA’s collection of information on the Panelist Informational Form is needed to gather up-to-date background information about the reviewer. It contains sensitive information.

(3) USDA’s collection of information on the Peer Review Form is needed to guide the reviewer’s comments on the subject project. It contains the reviewing criteria and space to insert comments.

(4) USDA’s collection of information on the Recommendations Form is needed to guide the panel’s critique of the review process. It contains recommendations for the subject research project.

(5) USDA’s collection of information on the Expense Report Form is needed to document a panel reviewer’s expenses incurred by attending a peer review meeting. The Expense Report includes lodging, meals, and transportation expenses. It includes sensitive information.

(6) USDA’s collection of information on the Invoice is needed to document the transfer of a stipend to the peer reviewer. The stipend is given to reviewers as appreciation for their time spent on the panel review process.

Estimate of Burden: The burden associated with this approval process is the minimum required to achieve program objectives. The information collection frequency is the minimum consistent with program objectives. The following estimates of time required to complete the forms are based on OSQR’s

experience in working with reviewers and accepting their input into our procedures.

1. Confidentiality Agreement Form: This form takes 10–15 minutes to complete. It only requires a signature and date, but the reviewer must read the terms of the agreement.

2. Panelist Informational Form: This form takes 20–30 minutes to complete. It resembles a typical application for personal information, many reviewers provide the same data to become grant reviewers.

3. Peer Review of an ARS Research Project Form (Peer Review Form): This form takes 4–6 hours to complete. Because this is a review, the page length significantly varies. Reviewers are free to write as much as they wish.

4. Recommendations for ARS Research Project Form (Recommendations Form, formerly known as “Critique Form”): This form takes 1 hour to complete. Because this is a review, the page length significantly varies. Reviewers are free to write as much as they wish.

5. Panel Expense Report Form (Expense Report): This form takes 10–15 minutes to complete.

6. Panel Invoice Form (Invoice): This form takes 5–10 minutes to complete. This form has the reviewer’s personal info pre-filled and the reviewer only verifies it’s accuracy and signs.

Respondents and Estimated Number of Respondents: Scientific experts, currently working in the same discipline as the research projects under review, are selected to review research projects. These experts are notable peers within and external to the ARS. Annually, about 100 peer reviewers complete these forms. However, ad hoc reviewers are not paid a stipend, and they do not travel to meet with other reviewers; and thus will not complete Expense Report and Invoice Forms. These ad hoc reviewers, retained for special situations, will make up about a quarter of all the reviewers retained annually.

Frequency of Response:

Form	Number of respondents	Annual frequency
Confidentiality Agreement	100	1 per respondent.
Peer Review Forms (Required for all reviewers and they have 1–4 review assignments on average).	100	~4 per respondent (Total of 400).
Expense Report, Invoice, & Panelist Information Forms	75	1 per respondent for each form (Total of 225).
Recommendations Form (Required on panel reviews, whereby comments from the peer review form are combined into one file).	75	~2.5 per respondent (Total of 200).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:

Form (Time required to complete)	Number completed annually	Total burden
Confidentiality Agreement (12 min.)	100	1200 min.
Peer Review Forms (~5 hrs)	400	2000 hrs.
Panelist Information Forms (25 min.)	225	5625 min.
Recommendations Form (1 hr)	200	200 hrs.
Invoice (7 min.)	225	1575 min.
Expense Report (12 min.)	225	2700 min.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chap. 35.

Comments: The Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection is necessary for the proper performance of ARS functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the estimated burden from proposed collection of information; (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, including the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 27, 2003.

Dr. Caird Rexroad,

Acting Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

[FR Doc. 03-14363 Filed 6-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03-013N]

Exemption for Retail Store Operations

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Adjusted Dollar Limitations.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the dollar limitations on sales of meat and meat food products and poultry products to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions that do not disqualify a store for exemption from Federal inspection requirements. By reason of FSIS' regulations, for calendar

year 2003 the dollar limitation for meat and meat food products is remaining at \$47,000 and for poultry products at \$41,600. FSIS is retaining the dollar limitations from calendar year 2002 based on the small price changes for these products evidenced by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective June 9, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynn Dickey, Ph.D., Director, Regulations and Directives Development Staff, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 112, Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700; telephone (202) 720-5627, fax (202) 690-0486.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*) provide that the statutory provisions requiring inspection of the slaughter of livestock or poultry and the preparation or processing of products thereof do not apply to operations of types traditionally and usually conducted at retail stores and restaurants, when conducted at any retail store or restaurant or similar retail-type establishment for sale in normal retail quantities or service to consumers at such establishments (21 U.S.C. 454(c)(2) and 661(c)(2)). In Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations §§ 303.1(d) and 381.10(d), respectively, FSIS regulations address the conditions under which requirements for inspection do not apply to retail operations.

Under these regulations, sales to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions disqualify a store for exemption if they exceed either of two maximum limits: 25 percent of the dollar value of total product sales or the calendar year dollar limitation set by the Administrator. The dollar limitation is adjusted automatically during the first

quarter of the year if the CPI, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicates an increase or decrease of more than \$500 in the price of the same volume of product for the previous year. FSIS publishes a notice of the adjusted dollar limitations in the **Federal Register**. (See paragraphs (d)(2)(iii)(b) and (d)(2)(iii) of §§ 303.1 and 381.10.)

The CPI for 2002 reveals an average annual price increase for meat and meat food products of 0.2 percent and an annual average price decrease for poultry products of 0.7 percent. The price increase for meat and meat food products is \$94 and the price decrease for poultry products is \$291. Because the price of meat and meat food products and the price of poultry products have not changed by more than \$500, in accordance with §§ 303.1(d)(2)(iii)(b) and 381.10(d)(2)(iii)(b) of the regulations, FSIS has retained the dollar limitation on sales to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions at \$47,000 for meat and meat food products and at \$41,600 for poultry products for calendar year 2003.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the Internet at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/ stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied