

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT JUSTIFICATION FOR
EXPORTATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS**

1. Circumstances Making Collection Of Information Necessary:

This information collection requests the extension of the paperwork and recordkeeping requirements approved under control number 0583-0094 regarding exportation, transportation, and importation of meat and poultry products.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged.

FSIS requires that meat and poultry establishments exporting product to foreign countries complete an export certificate. Establishments must supply the type, amount, and destination of product being exported. The information required to be supplied on this form does not duplicate any information other Federal agencies may require. Such a form is necessary to certify to the importing countries that FSIS inspectors have inspected the product and have found it sound and wholesome.

Meat and poultry products not marked with the mark of inspection and shipped from one official establishment to another for further processing must be transported under FSIS seal to prevent such unmarked product from entering into commerce. To track product shipped under seal, FSIS requires shipping establishments to complete a form that identifies the type, amount, and weight of the product.

Foreign countries exporting meat and poultry products to the U.S. must establish eligibility for importation of product into the U.S., and annually certify that their inspection systems are "equivalent to" the U.S. inspection system. Additionally, meat and poultry products intended for import into the U.S. must be accompanied by a health certificate, signed by an official of the foreign government, stating that the products have been produced by certified foreign establishments. Establishments or brokers wishing to import product into the United States must complete a form that specifies the type, amount, originating country and destination of the meat and poultry product. Additionally, FSIS has established procedures which allow establishments importing product to stamp such

product with the inspection legend prior to FSIS inspection, if they receive prior FSIS approval.

2. How, By Whom and Purpose Information Is To Be Used:

The following is a discussion of the required information collection activities relating to exportation, transportation and importation of meat and poultry products.

Export

Every time meat and poultry establishments export product to foreign countries they must complete FSIS Form 9060-6. Respondents report the type and amount of product for export and its destination (322.2 & 381.105).

FSIS inspectors sign this form to certify that product intended to be exported has been inspected, found to be unadulterated, and complies with the exporting country's requirements.

Transportation

When meat and poultry establishments ship unmarked product to another official establishment they must complete FSIS Form 7350-1, Request and Notice of Shipment of Sealed Meat and Poultry (325.1). Respondents must supply their name, number, method of shipping, and destination of product, type and description of product to be shipped, reason for shipping product, and a signature. However, because of HACCP shipping unmarked product with FSIS Form 7350-1 is now rarely done.

FSIS inspectors at the shipping establishment complete the form with the time, date, and serial number of seals. FSIS uses the information on this form to track the shipment of unmarked product.

Meat and poultry establishments must maintain a file of FSIS Form 7350-1 for 2 years from the date the transaction occurred and make the forms available to FSIS program employees upon request (325.10). To facilitate the tracking of unmarked product shipped between official establishments, FSIS inspectors review the FSIS Form 7350-1 when necessary.

Importation

Countries desiring to establish eligibility for importation of product into the U.S. must present copies of laws and regulations on which the foreign meat and poultry inspection system is based. Determination of eligibility is based on a study of the documents and other information provided, and an initial review of the system in operation by a program employee to determine that the system is "equivalent to" that of the U.S. (327.2 & 381.196).

Countries exporting meat and poultry products to the U.S. must annually certify that their country's inspection system is "equivalent to" the U.S.' inspection system. Responsible officials of the country's inspection program must supply the control numbers, names and addresses of all establishments in the country which prepare product for export to the U.S.

Maintenance of eligibility of a country for importation of products into the U.S. depends on the results of periodic reviews of each establishment listed in the certification. A written report must be prepared by the representative documenting the findings with respect to the maintenance and of system. Copies of the reports shall be kept and made available to the Department representatives upon request.

FSIS uses this information to determine and ensure that establishments exporting products to the U.S. have inspection systems "equivalent to" the U.S.' system, and that product is being produced under such a system.

Meat and poultry products exported to the U.S. must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a responsible official of the exporting country. The certificate must identify the kind of product, species, number of pieces or containers and weight; identification marks on products or containers; consignor, address and establishment number; consignee; destination; shipping marks and a signature.

FSIS uses this information to verify that a meat or poultry product intended for import has been prepared in a plant certified to prepare product for export to the U.S.

Establishments or brokers (importers) importing meat and poultry products must complete FSIS Form 9540-1 for re-inspection of the product by FSIS (327.5(b) & 381.198(a)). They must supply their company name and address; country of origin; destination in the U.S. of the product; name, code, marking, amount and weight of product

and a signature.

FSIS uses this information to conduct re-inspection of meat or poultry product imported to the U.S. Also, information supplied on this form is used for FSIS' annual Report to Congress.

Import establishments that wish to place inspection legends on imported product prior to inspection must submit a letter to FSIS requesting approval to do so. The letter must state that import establishments will limit pre-stamping to lots of product which will be inspected that day; that all product which has been pre-stamped will be stored in the facility where the inspection will occur; that the inspection legend will be removed from product if the product is refused entry after reinspection; and that the establishment will maintain, for 2 years, a log that includes the following information for each lot of product: date of inspection, the country of origin, the foreign establishment number, the product name, the number of units, the shipping container marks, and the FSIS Form 9540-1 covering the product to be inspected.

FSIS program employees review letters requesting pre-stamping of product, and, if acceptable, approve the procedure.

There are a total of 661,149 burden hours for the information collection requests relating to exportation, transportation and importation of meat and poultry products.

3. Use Of Improved Information Technology:

Under the EGov Act, electronic versions of these forms have been developed. Records may be maintained electronically provided that appropriate controls are implemented to ensure the integrity of the electronic data.

4. Efforts To Identify Duplication:

No FSIS office, USDA agency, or any other Government agency requires information regarding exportation, transportation and importation of meat and poultry products. There is no available information that can be used or modified.

5. Methods To Minimize Burden On Small Business Entities:

Data collected from small businesses are the same as for large ones. The information collections must apply to all businesses exporting product to the United States, transporting unmarked product for further processing, and importing product into the United States.

6. Consequences If Information Were Collected Less Frequently:

To conduct the information collections less frequently would inhibit the export of meat and poultry products, the ability of FSIS to ensure that unmarked meat and poultry transported for further processing do not enter into commerce, and the ability of FSIS to ensure that imported meat and poultry products are wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged.

7. Circumstances That Would Cause The Information Collection To Be Conducted In A Manner:

- requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;
- requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

To ensure that foreign establishments importing meat and poultry products into the U.S. are produced under inspection systems "equivalent to" the U.S. inspection system,

monthly reports of each establishment must be conducted by representatives of the foreign government. All other information collection and recordkeeping activities in this submission are consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6.

8. Consultation With Persons Outside The Agency:

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, FSIS published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register (71 FR 36054; June 23, 2006) requesting comments regarding this information collect request. FSIS received one comment. The commenter believes that the export certificate time estimate was not accurate. FSIS also contacted three members of industry regarding this information collection. Three members of industry (Kim Highsmith, 904/786-8038; Lynn Miller, 251/433-7399; Renee Angle, 256/492-1400) commented that it took longer to complete than the Agency had estimated. Therefore, FSIS revised its estimate to say that it takes 20 minutes to complete FSIS Form 9060-6, Application for Export Certificate. And the Agency also received a comment on FSIS Form 9540-1 from an importer that the firm had no complaints about the time estimates concerning the form.

9. Payment or Gifts to Respondents:

Respondents will not receive any gifts or payments.

10. Confidentiality Provided To Respondents:

No assurances other than routine protection provided under the Freedom of Information Act have been provided to respondents.

11. Questions Of A Sensitive Nature:

The applicants are not asked to furnish any information of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate Of Burden:

The total burden estimate for the reporting and recordkeeping requirements associated with this information collection is 661,149. The burden estimates are broken down into three categories.

Export	646,750
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Transportation	1
Importation	14,398
Total	661,149 hours

Exportation

It takes establishments and warehouses an average of 20 minutes to complete FSIS Form 9060-6, Application for Export. Approximately, 4,500 establishments will annually respond 1,125,000 times for a total of 56,250 hours. And 500 warehouses will make 375,000 responses annually for a total of 18,750 hours. In total, 5,000 establishments and warehouses will make 1,940,250 responses per year for a grand total of 646,750 hours.

**APPLICATION FOR EXPORT CERTIFICATE
(9 CFR 322.2 & 381.105/FSIS Form 9060-6)**

Type of Establish-ment	No. of Respondent s	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Establish-ments	4,500	250	1,125,000	20	375,000
Warehouses	500	750	815,250	20	271,750
Total	5,000	250	1,940,250	20	646,750

Transportation

The Agency estimates that it takes on the average 5 minutes to complete FSIS Form

7350-1, Request and Notice of Shipment of Sealed Meat and Poultry. Approximately 10 establishments a year will use FSIS Form 7350-1 once a year for a total of 1 hour. It will take an establishment an average of two minutes per form to annually conduct recordkeeping activities for a total of .5 hour rounded up to 1 hour.

**REQUEST AND NOTICE OF SHIPMENT OF SEALED MEAT AND POULTRY
(9 CFR 325.5/FSIS Form 7350-1)**

Type of Establish-ment	No. of Respon-dents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Ests.	10	1	10	5	1

Importation

FSIS estimates that it will take one foreign government 120 minutes (2 hours) once to establish eligibility to import meat and poultry products for a total of 2 hours annually.

**ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY TO IMPORT MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS
(9 CFR 327.2 & 381.196)**

Type of Establishment	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Foreign Governments	1	1	1	120	2

The Agency estimates that it will take 36 foreign governments 5 minutes once to certify their meat and poultry establishments for export for a total of 3 hours annually.

**FOREIGN MEAT & POULTRY ESTABLISHMENT CERTIFICATION
(9 CFR 327.2 & 381.196)**

Type of Establishment	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Foreign Governments	36	1	36	5	3

FSIS estimates that it will take 36 foreign governments one hour 12 times a year to submit a report for maintaining import eligibility for a total of 432 hours annually. The recordkeeping burden associated with these reports for the 36 foreign governments is 15 minutes expended 12 times a year for a total of 144 responses and 36 hours.

**REPORT FOR MAINTAINING IMPORT ELIGIBILITY
(9 CFR 327.2 & 381.196)**

Type of Establish-ment	No. of Respon-dents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Foreign Governments	36	12	432	60	432

**FOREIGN OFFICIAL MEAT & POULTRY REPORT
(9 CFR 327.2 & 381.196)**

Type of Establish-Ment	No. of Respon-dents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Foreign Governments	12	12	144	15	36

FSIS estimates that it will take 36 foreign governments an average of 5 minutes to complete a health certificate that accompanies meat and poultry imported into the U.S. for a total of 20,000 responses and 49 hours.

**IMPORTED PRODUCTS; FOREIGN HEALTH CERTIFICATE REQUIRED
(9 CFR 327.4 & 381.197)**

Type of Establishment	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Foreign Governments	36	555	20,000	5	49

Importers (brokers) importing meat and poultry products must complete FSIS Form 9540-1 for reinspection for re-inspection of the product. It takes an average of 2 minutes to complete the form for a total of 348,750 responses and 11,625 hours annually.

**IMPORT INSPECTION APPLICATION AND REPORT
(9 CFR 327.4 & 381.198/FSIS Form 9540-1)**

Type of Establishment	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
Importers	1,395	250	348,750	2	11,625

Import establishments (I-houses) that wish to place inspection legends on imported before inspection (pre-stamping) must submit a letter to FSIS requesting approval.

Approximately 3 I-houses per year request approval. It takes an average of 15 minutes to complete the letter for a total of 3 responses and less than 1 hour per year.

The I-house must maintain for two years a log of information concerning each lot of product that has been pre-stamped. The 90 I-houses will spend an average of two minutes 750 times a year on recordkeeping for an annual total of 67,500 responses and 2,250 hours.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PRE-STAMP PRODUCT
(9 CFR 327.4 & 381.195)**

Type of Establishment	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
I-houses	3	1	3	15	1

**AUTHORIZATION TO PRE-STAMP PRODUCT RECORDKEEPING
(9 CFR 327.4 & 381.195)**

Type of Establishment	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Annual Responses	Time for Response in Minutes	Total Annual Time in Hours
I-houses	90	750	67,500	2	2,250

13. Capital and Start-up Cost and Subsequent Maintenance

There are no related capital and start-up costs associated with these information collection activities.

14. Annual Cost To Federal Government:

The cost to the Federal Government for these information collection requirements is \$3,000,000 annually. The cost estimates are based on the inspection review duties necessary to verify that establishments comply with the information collection responsibilities. The cost estimate includes records review time of FSIS inspection personnel (GS 7/9/11) and staff officers (GS 11/12). The Agency estimates that it will cost respondents \$30 an hour for Agency personnel time.

The cost to the respondents is estimated at \$19,834,470 million annually. The Agency estimates that it will cost respondents \$30 an hour in fulfilling these paperwork and recordkeeping requirements. Respondents will spend an annual total of 661,149 hours and \$19,834,470.

15. Reasons For Changes In Burden:

The change in the burden hours resulted from an adjustment in response to comments from industry.

16. Tabulation, Analyses And Publication Plans:

There are no plans to publish the data for statistical use.

17. OMB Approval Number Display:

FSIS will display the OMB number on any instructions it publishes relating these recordkeeping activities.

18. Exceptions to the Certification

There are no exceptions to the certification. This information collection accords with the certification in item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

