

March 2007

Supporting Statement
Importation of Mangoes from the Philippines
OMB No. 0579-0172

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for preventing plant pests and noxious weeds from entering the United States, preventing the spread of plant pests and noxious weeds not widely distributed in the United States, and eradicating those imported pests and weeds when eradication is feasible.

Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7711 – 7714), The Secretary of Agriculture, either independently or in cooperation with the States, is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pests new to the United States or not known to be widely distributed throughout the United States.

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), a program within APHIS, is responsible for implementing the intent of this Act, and does so through the enforcement of its Foreign Quarantine Regulations contained in Part 319 of Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations.

Foreign quarantines are necessary to regulate the importation and movement of articles from infested countries into the United States. The regulations also provide options to treat certain commodities that otherwise would be prohibited due to plant pests. Treatment to eradicate and suppress pests allows these commodities to move without risk of importing or spreading insect pests or plant diseases.

Implementing these regulations and monitoring the treatment options often require APHIS to collect information from a variety of individuals who are involved in growing, packing, handling, transporting, and exporting plants and plant products. The information APHIS collects serves as the supporting documentation for issuing PPQ forms and documents that are required to authorize release of restricted products, and the forms and documents allow the movement of regulated products. This information is vital to helping ensure that injurious plant diseases and insect pests are not imported and do not spread into or within the United States.

This regulation is designed to prevent the importation and spread of injurious pests such as fruit flies within the United States by allowing the movement of regulated products only if they have been treated to remove the danger of infestation. Imported fruit flies would result in millions of dollars in damage to American agriculture. Implementing this regulation requires us to engage in certain information collection activities, which in turn

necessitates the use of forms. APHIS is asking OMB to approve this information collection for an additional 3 years.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Phytosanitary Certificate (foreign)

Each shipment of mangoes must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Republic of the Philippines Department of Agriculture that contains additional declarations stating that the mangoes were grown on the Island of Guimaras and have been treated for fruit flies of the genus *Bactrocera*.

Box Labeling

Each box of mangoes imported into the United States from the Philippines must be clearly labeled with: (1) the name of the orchard or grove of origin, or the name of the grower; (2) that the mangoes were produced on the Island of Guimaras, Republic of the Philippines; and (3) the type and amount of fruit it contains. These boxes are labeled by exporters and/or the Philippine authorities.

Trust Fund

Mangoes that are treated or inspected in the Philippines may be imported into the United States only if the Republic of the Philippines Department of Agriculture (RPDA) has entered into a trust fund agreement with USDA/APHIS. That agreement requires the RPDA to pay, in advance for each shipping season, all costs that APHIS estimates it will incur in providing inspection services in the Philippines during that shipping season.

Import Permit

Except for fruits or vegetables that may be imported under the general permit provided in § 319.56-2(b), (c), and (d) or for fruits and vegetables imported under an oral permit in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section, no fruits or vegetables may be imported unless a specific written permit has been issued for the fruits and vegetables and unless the fruits and vegetables meet all other applicable requirements by APHIS in the specific written permit.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

APHIS requires that some plants or plant products be accompanied by a phytosanitary inspection certificate that is completed by plant health officials in the originating or transiting country. APHIS uses the information on this certificate to determine the pest condition of the shipment at the time of inspection in the foreign country. This information is used as a guide to the intensity of the inspection that APHIS conducts when the shipment arrives. Without this information, all shipments would need to be inspected very thoroughly, thereby requiring considerably more time. This would slow the clearance of international shipments. APHIS has no control or influence over when foreign countries will automate this certificate.

PPQ Form 587 (Import Permit) is posted at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits and is a PDF which can be printed for public use.

A Trust fund can be automated by the government in which the articles are produced. Funds can also be transferred via computer to APHIS.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purpose described in item 2 above.

The information APHIS collects is exclusive to the mission of preventing the dissemination or interstate spread of plant pests, diseases, and noxious weeds. The information is not available from any other source.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The information APHIS collects in connection with this program is the minimum needed to protect growers nationwide from the potential introduction of fruit flies into the country.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

If APHIS did not collect this information or if this information was collected less frequently, APHIS could not verify that: (1) fruit was treated, (2) fruit flies in the prohibited commodity were destroyed by treatment, or (3) the treatment was adequate to prevent the risk of fruit flies entering the county.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

No special circumstances exist that require this collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5

8. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting form, and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

In 2006-2007, APHIS held productive consultations with the following individuals concerning the information collection activities associated with vapor heat treatment of mangoes from the Philippines:

Delia S. Pascua
DHM Philippine Produce
Manila
E-Mail: gspascua@skynet.net

Robert C. Amores, President
HI-Las Marketing Corp.
Manila
E-Mail: hilasmc@info.com.ph

Hernani G. Golez
National Mango R&D Center
Jordan, Guimaras Island
E-Mail: sparkase2002@yahoo.com

On Monday, August 21, 2006, pages 48530-48531, APHIS published in the Federal Register a 60-day notice seeking public comments on its plans to request a 3-year renewal of this collection of information. No comments from the public were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than reenumeration of contractors or grantees.

This information collection activity involves no payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

No additional assurance of confidentiality is provided with this information collection. However, the confidentiality of information is protected under U.S.C. 552a.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and others that are considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

This information collection activity asks no questions of personal or sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated.

. Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-1.

See APHIS Form 71 for hour burden estimates. These estimates were developed using the calculations of the average time to fill out the treatment certificates and discussions with growers, packers, and shippers.

. Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.

Respondents are growers, packers, and shippers of regulated articles. APHIS estimates the total annualized cost to these respondents to be \$1,815. APHIS arrived at this figure by multiplying the hours of estimated response time (121 hours) by the estimated average hourly wage of the above respondents (\$15.00). $121 \times \$15 = \$1,815$.

13. Provide estimates of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information, (do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in items 12 and 14). The cost estimates should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component annualized over its expected useful life; and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component.

There is zero annual cost burden associated with capital and start-up costs, maintenance costs, and purchase of services in connection with this program.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Provide a description of the method used to estimate cost and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

See APHIS Form 79 for annualized cost to the Federal government. This cost is based on the estimated average time required to process treatment certificates and perform inspections associated with vapor heat treatment of mangoes from the Philippines. These costs are estimated to be \$310.83.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-1.

This is an adjustment of 81 hours due to burden being inadvertently omitted for phytosanitary certificates, trust fund agreements, and import permits. Also, the total hours per response for labeling is now reported at 0.16 hours.

16. For collections of information whose results are planned to be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication.

APHIS has no plans to tabulate or publish the information being collects.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

If forms were to be discarded because of an outdated OMB expiration date, but otherwise usable, higher printing costs would be incurred by the Federal Government. Therefore, APHIS is seeking approval to not display the OMB expiration date on our forms.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in the "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act."

APHIS is able to certify compliance with all provisions in the Act.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Statistical methods are not used in this information collection.