



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

**November 14, 2008**

**Subject:** Request for Expedited Processing of Emergency Letter on The  
New Lacey Act  
OMB Paperwork Reduction Act Clearance

**To:** Margaret A. Malanoski, Desk Officer

**Through:** Ruth Brown, Department Clearance Officer

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is requesting emergency review, processing, and approval of an information collection activity that is needed in connection with the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to protect plants and plant products by requiring importers to submit a declaration at the time of importation for certain plants and plant products such as wood pulp, furniture, and products manufactured from plant-based resins.

This emergency action resulting from the Lacey Act will establish new regulations that will make it unlawful beginning December 15, 2008, to import certain plants and plant products without an import declaration. APHIS is working with a larger interagency group composed of representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Council on Environmental Quality, and the Department of Commerce, to implement the new provisions.

Its implementation will require APHIS to engage in certain information collection activities. APHIS is requesting approval of the paperwork clearance package by **December 1, 2008.**

Should you desire further information regarding this request, please contact Mr. Alex Belano, Assistant Branch Chief, Commodity Import Analysis and Operations, (301) 734-5333.

Rebecca Bech  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine



USDA