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To: Julie Wise
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Through: Charlene Parker *Charlene Parker 4/30/12*
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From: David R. Shipman *David R. Shipman* APR 26 2012
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service

Subject: Request for Emergency Review and Approval for a New Information Collection Request – National Organic Program (NOP) Import Certificate

We are requesting emergency review and approval of a new information collection. This new information collection addresses new reporting requirements under the recently signed EU – U.S. Organic Equivalence Arrangement. Effective June 1, 2012, this arrangement will allow organic products produced, processed or packaged in the U.S. or European Union (EU) to be sold as “organic” in both countries without additional certification. This arrangement was entered into by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the authority of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*).

The information collection under review pertains to a **Form NOP 2110-1**, “NOP Import Certificate”. Under the terms of the arrangement, EU organic products exported to the U.S. will need to be accompanied by this form. This form will document that the organic products were certified under the EU organic regulations and met the terms of the equivalency arrangement for export to the U.S. A burden for completing this form is being imposed on EU designated certification entities under the arrangement. AMS estimates that approximately 205 EU designated certification entities would annually fill out this form 20 times, with an estimated reporting burden of 15 minutes per response for a total annual burden on respondents of 1,025 hours, and an estimated total annual recordkeeping burden on respondents of 65.6 hours.

We are requesting emergency review and approval due to timing issues associated with the equivalency arrangement. The equivalency arrangement was not formalized until February 15, 2012. Consequently, AMS was unable to initiate the information collection process until

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February 2012. AMS published a notice of request for new information collection in the Federal Register on March 22, 2012 (77 FR 16802), and requested comments on the estimated burden by May 21, 2012. However, due to the need to consider comments received and then issue another notice in the Federal Register for an additional thirty days of comment, we will not be able to complete the information collection process before the June 1, 2012, effective date for the EU-U.S. Organic Equivalence Arrangement. For this reason, and in compliance with OMB regulations (5 CFR part 1320), which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), we are requesting emergency approval for this information collection by June 1, 2012.

Attached is the Form OMB 83-I and the Supporting Statement and AMS-71 Spreadsheet.

Attachments