



United States
Department of
Agriculture


Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

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TO: Cortney Higgins
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THROUGH: Ruth Brown
Departmental Clearance Officer
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FROM: Phil Karsting 
Administrator
Foreign Agricultural Service

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval of a new Information Collection
Package for the Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is requesting emergency approval for a new information collection package. A “burden” is being imposed on eligible entities who received a share of funds awarded under Section 12315 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). Entities will have to submit affidavits to FAS for payments under the “Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund.”

The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes the Secretary to distribute up to \$30 million per year from the Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund in each of calendar years 2015 through 2019. Eligibility is delineated in the Act as well as the original statutes which established these programs under the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Treasury (Customs and Border Protection). In general, eligibility is limited to domestic manufacturers that cut and sew men's and boys' worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets and trousers in the United States; and manufacturers that weave worsted wool fabric in the U.S. The number of claimants is not known but could be as few as 55, but not likely to exceed 70.

The Act sets a deadline of March 1, 2015, for claimants to submit their affidavits to USDA in order for their payment claim to be considered. To effectively prepare for submissions from claimants of the Fund for the upcoming 2015 program year, FAS requests OMB review and approve this information collection package by January 26, 2015. The use of normal clearance procedures is likely to prevent us from preparing to collect this information in time or disrupt the collection of this new information.

If there are any questions or concerns, please call Ron Lord at 202-720-6939 or Benjamin Chan at 202-720-8877.