



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW.  
Washington, D.C.  
20250

DATE: May 4, 2021

TO: Julie Wise, OMB Desk Officer

THROUGH: Ruth Brown, USDA Information Collection Officer

FROM: Paul Kiecker, Administrator, FSIS

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval for a New Information Collection Package—American Rescue Plan Act

This request is for OMB review and emergency approval of a collection of information necessary to implement provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act, signed by the President on March 11, 2021, which granted the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) \$100 million in budget authority to reduce the costs of overtime and holiday inspection for small and very small official meat and poultry establishments and egg products plants. Compliance with the normal clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act would significantly delay FSIS' ability to provide this financial assistance to small and very small official meat and poultry establishments and egg products plants, which continue to be adversely affected by COVID-19, and whose continued operations are essential for both the food supply and economy in rural America. Because these official establishments and plants comprise the numerical majority of operations overseen by FSIS and because they may apply for partial refunds of overtime and holiday inspection fees paid since March 14, 2021, FSIS sees a need to begin the distribution and processing of the single form in this collection as soon as possible, so as to expedite overtime and holiday inspection fee reductions as authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act.

We are requesting emergency approval of a new information collection package by May 13, 2021.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Gina Kouba at [Gina.Kouba@usda.gov](mailto:Gina.Kouba@usda.gov).