

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 8/4/26, 9:44 AM
Received: June 05, 2026
Status: Posted
Posted: June 07, 2026
Tracking No. mql-phtc-mpsd
Comments Due: July 21, 2026
Submission Type: API

Docket: FSIS-2026-0100

Notice of Request To Renew an Approved Information Collection: Accreditation of Laboratories, Transactions and Exemptions

Comment On: FSIS-2026-0100-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Accreditation of Laboratories, Transactions, and Exemptions

Document: FSIS-2026-0100-0002

Comment from Anonymous

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

At its core, the collection supports basic traceability and accountability. Under 9 CFR 439.20 and 590.580, non-Federal analytical laboratories must maintain specific records to show they are operating in line with federal standards. When you look at the technical flow of food safety testing, these laboratory records are the backbone of data integrity, ensuring that diagnostic results for pathogens or chemical residues are verifiable. Simultaneously, the transaction tracking required under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), and Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) functions as a chain-of-custody log. This documentation requires brokers, wholesalers, and processors to maintain clear histories of animal carcasses and egg products, which is essential for executing precise and timely product recalls if contamination is ever detected. Another important aspect of this information collection is how it handles exemptions. For example, facilities handling both inspected and exempt meat or poultry products must keep records to prove that these products are not commingled. These regulations prevent uninspected items from slipping into commercial, inspected pathways. Additionally, for retail operations that have previously violated exemption requirements, the mandatory tracking of sales and purchases acts as an administrative oversight tool. By requiring these specific businesses to maintain these transaction logs, the agency is using a targeted compliance model, applying stricter recordkeeping burdens only to higher-risk operations rather than imposing them on all retail entities across the board. Looking at the burden estimates, FSIS projects that 26,120 respondents will generate an average of 122 responses each year, totaling 113,458 burden hours. When you break these numbers down, the average annual burden per respondent is roughly 4.3 hours. This indicates that for most participating laboratories and businesses, the reporting processes are likely well-integrated into routine business operations. However, to keep these burdens low, it is worth analyzing how much of this recordkeeping is still paper-based versus digital. Standardizing digital formats and ensuring that electronic database entries can satisfy these regulations could help maintain this low burden, particularly for smaller retail operators who might otherwise find manual log keeping to be an administrative challenge.