

IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE—Continued
[Raw Cotton Fiber]

HTS No.	Conversion factor	Cents per kg.
6302319040	0.8182	1.0534
6302317050	1.1689	1.5048
6302319050	0.8182	1.0534
6302322020	0.4091	0.5267
6302322040	0.4091	0.5267
6302402010	0.9935	1.279
6302511000	0.5844	0.7524
6302512000	0.8766	1.1285
6302513000	0.5844	0.7524
6302514000	0.8182	1.0534
6302600010	1.1689	1.5048
6302600020	1.052	1.3543
6302600030	1.052	1.3543
6302910005	1.052	1.3543
6302910015	1.1689	1.5048
6302910025	1.052	1.3543
6302910035	1.052	1.3543
6302910045	1.052	1.3543
6302910050	1.052	1.3543
6302910060	1.052	1.3543
6303110000	0.9448	1.2163
6303910000	0.6429	0.8277
6304111000	1.0629	1.3684
6304190500	1.052	1.3543
6304191000	1.1689	1.5048
6304191500	0.4091	0.5267
6304192000	0.4091	0.5267
6304910020	0.9351	1.2038
6304920000	0.9351	1.2038
6505901540	1.181	1.5204
6505902060	0.9935	1.279
6505902545	0.5844	0.7524

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(6) * * *
(i) A request for such exemption must be submitted to the Cotton Board by the importer, prior to the importation of the cotton product. The Cotton Board will then issue, if deemed appropriate, a numbered exemption certificate valid for 1 year from the date of issue. The exemption number should be entered by the importer on the Customs entry documentation in the appropriate location as determined by the U.S. Customs Service.

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Dated: March 18, 1996.
Lon Hatamiya,
Administrator.
[FR Doc. 96-6984 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]
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7 CFR Part 1230
[No. LS-96-001]
Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order—Increase in Importer Assessments
AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.
SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act) of 1985 and the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order (Order), this proposed rule would increase the amount of the assessment per pound due on imported pork and pork products to reflect an increase in the 1995 five-market average price for domestic barrows and gilts. This proposed action would bring the equivalent market value of the live animals from which such imported pork and pork products were derived in line with the market values of domestic porcine animals. These proposed changes will facilitate the continued collection of assessments on imported porcine animals, pork, and pork products.
DATES: Comments must be received by April 22, 1996.
ADDRESSES: Send two copies of comments to Ralph L. Tapp, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Division; Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, Room 2606-S; P.O. Box 96456; Washington,

D.C. 20090-6456. Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the above office in Room 2606 South Building; 14th and Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, 202/720-1115.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Agriculture (Department) is issuing this proposed rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.
This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. This proposal is not intended to have a retroactive effect. The Act states that the statute is intended to occupy the field of promotion and consumer education involving pork and pork products and of obtaining funds thereof from pork producers and that the regulation of such activity (other than a regulation or requirement relating to a matter of public health or the provision of State or local funds for such activity) that is in addition to or different from the Act may not be imposed by a State.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under § 1625 of the Act, a person subject to an order may file a petition with the Secretary stating that such order, a provision of such order or an obligation imposed in connection with such order is not in accordance with the law; and requesting a modification of the order or an exemption from the order. Such person is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing, the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in the district in which person resides or does business has jurisdiction to review the Secretary's determination, if a complaint is filed not later than 20 days after the date such person receives notice of such determination.

This action also was reviewed under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 601 et seq.). The effect of the Order upon small entities was discussed in the September 5, 1986, issue of the Federal Register (51 FR 31898), and it was determined that the Order would not have a significant effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Many of the estimated 200 importers may be classified as small entities. This proposed rule would increase the amount of assessments on imported pork and pork products subject to assessment by two-hundredths of a cent per pound, or as expressed in cents per kilogram, four-hundredths of a cent per kilogram. Adjusting the assessments on imported pork and pork products would result in an estimated increase in assessments of \$104,000 over a 12-month period. Accordingly, the Administrator of AMS has determined that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The Act (7 U.S.C. 4801-4819) approved December 23, 1985, authorized the establishment of a national pork promotion, research, and consumer information program. The program was funded by an initial assessment rate of 0.25 percent of the market value of all porcine animals marketed in the United States and an equivalent amount of assessment on imported porcine animals, pork, and pork products. However, that rate was increased to 0.35 percent in 1991 (56 FR 51635) and to 0.45 percent effective September 3, 1995 (60 FR 29963). The final Order establishing a pork promotion, research, and consumer information program was published in the September 5, 1986, issue of the Federal Register (51 FR 31898; as

corrected, at 51 FR 36383 and amended at 53 FR 1909, 53 FR 30243, 56 FR 4, 56 FR 51635, and 60 FR 29963) and assessments began on November 1, 1986.

The Order requires importers of porcine animals to pay U.S. Customs Service (USCS), upon importation, the assessment of 0.45 percent of the animal's declared value and importers of pork and pork products to pay USCS, upon importation, the assessment of 0.45 percent of the market value of the live porcine animals from which such pork and pork products were produced. This proposed rule would increase the assessments on all of the imported pork and pork products subject to assessment as published in the Federal Register as a final rule June 7, 1995, and effective on September 3, 1995; (60 FR 29965). This increase is consistent with the increase in the annual average price of domestic barrows and gilts for calendar year 1995 as reported by USDA, AMS, Livestock and Grain Market News (LGMN) Branch. This increase in assessments would make the equivalent market value of the live porcine animal from which the imported pork and pork products were derived reflect the recent increase in the market value of domestic porcine animals, thereby promoting comparability between importer and domestic assessments. This proposed rule would not change the current assessment rate of 0.45 percent of the market value.

The methodology for determining the per pound amounts for imported pork and pork products was described in the Supplementary Information accompanying the Order and published in the September 5, 1986, Federal Register at 51 FR 31901. The weight of imported pork and pork products is converted to a carcass weight equivalent by utilizing conversion factors which are published in the Department's Statistical Bulletin No. 697 "Conversion Factors and Weights and Measures." These conversion factors take into account the removal of bone, weight lost in cooking or other processing, and the nonpork components of pork products. Secondly, the carcass weight equivalent is converted to a live animal equivalent weight by dividing the carcass weight equivalent by 70 percent, which is the average dressing percentage of porcine animals in the United States. Thirdly, the equivalent value of the live porcine animal is determined by multiplying the live animal equivalent weight by an annual average market price for barrows and gilts as reported by USDA, AMS, LGMN Branch. This average price is published on a yearly basis during the month of January in LGMN Branch's

publication "Livestock, Meat, and Wool Weekly Summary and Statistics." Finally, the equivalent value is multiplied by the applicable assessment rate of 0.45 percent due on imported pork and pork products. The end result is expressed in an amount per pound for each type of pork or pork product. To determine the amount per kilogram for pork and pork products subject to assessment under the Act and Order, the cent-per-pound assessments are multiplied by a metric conversion factor 2.2046 and carried to the sixth decimal.

The formula in the preamble for the Order at 51 FR 31901 contemplated that it would be necessary to recalculate the equivalent live animal value of imported pork and pork products to reflect changes in the annual average price of domestic barrows and gilts to maintain equity of assessments between domestic porcine animals and imported pork and pork products.

The average annual market price increased from \$39.57 in 1994 to \$41.76 in 1995, an increase of about 6 percent. This increase would result in a corresponding increase in assessments for all HTS numbers listed in the table in § 1230.110, 60 FR 29965; June 7, 1995, of an amount equal to two-hundredths of a cent per pound, or as expressed in cents per kilogram, four-hundredths of a cent per kilogram. Based on the most recent available Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, data on the volume of imported pork and pork products available for the period January 1, 1995, through September 30, 1995, the proposed increase in assessment amounts would result in an estimated \$104,000 increase in assessments over a 12-month period.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1230

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Agricultural research, Marketing agreement, Meat and meat products, Pork and pork products.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, it is proposed that 7 CFR Part 1230 be amended as follows:

PART 1230—PORK PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR Part 1230 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 4801-4819.

Subpart B—[Amended]

2. In Subpart B—Rules and Regulations, § 1230.110 is revised to read as follows:

§ 1230.110 Assessments on imported pork and pork products.

(a) The following HTS categories of imported live porcine animals are subject to assessment at the rate specified.

Live porcine animals	Assessment
0103.10.0000 .	0.45 percent Customs Entered Value.
0103.91.0000 .	0.45 percent Customs Entered Value.
0103.92.0000 .	0.45 percent Customs Entered Value.

(b) The following HTS categories of imported pork and pork products are subject to assessment at the rates specified.

Pork and pork products	Assessment	
	cents/lb	cents/kg
0203.11.0000 .....	.27	.595242
0203.12.1010 .....	.27	.595242
0203.12.1020 .....	.27	.595242
0203.12.9010 .....	.27	.595242
0203.12.9020 .....	.27	.595242
0203.19.2010 .....	.31	.683426
0203.19.2090 .....	.31	.683426
0203.19.4010 .....	.27	.595242
0203.19.4090 .....	.27	.595242
0203.21.0000 .....	.27	.595242
0203.22.1000 .....	.27	.595242
0203.22.9000 .....	.27	.595242
0203.29.2000 .....	.31	.683426
0203.29.4000 .....	.27	.595242
0206.30.0000 .....	.27	.595242
0206.41.0000 .....	.27	.595242
0206.49.0000 .....	.27	.595242
0210.11.0010 .....	.27	.595242
0210.11.0020 .....	.27	.595242
0210.12.0020 .....	.27	.595242
0210.12.0040 .....	.27	.595242
0210.19.0010 .....	.31	.683426
0210.19.0090 .....	.31	.683426
1601.00.2010 .....	.37	.815702
1601.00.2090 .....	.37	.815702
1602.41.2020 .....	.41	.903886
1602.41.2040 .....	.41	.903886
1602.41.9000 .....	.27	.595242
1602.42.2020 .....	.41	.903886
1602.42.2040 .....	.41	.903886
1602.42.4000 .....	.27	.595242
1602.49.200037	.815702
1602.49.400031	.683426

Dated: March 18, 1996.

Lon Hatamiya,
Administrator.

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3

[Docket No. 95-099-2]

Dogs and Cats in Commercial Pet Trade; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is hosting a public meeting to gather information on the current Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards that apply to the care of dogs and cats in the commercial pet trade. In line with our commitment to ensure appropriate care for animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act, we are reviewing these regulations and standards and are seeking recommendations and opinions from the affected industries and concerned public to determine whether revisions are necessary.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on two consecutive half days—from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. on the first day and from 8 a.m. until noon on the second day. The meeting will be held in Washington, DC, on April 10 and 11, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Agriculture South Building, South Cafeteria, First Floor, Wing 3, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. If travelling by Metro to the USDA South Building, take the Blue Line (towards Stadium-Armory/Addison Road) or the Orange Line (towards Stadium-Armory/New Carrollton). Exit the train at the Smithsonian station and follow signs to Independence Avenue. Enter Wing 1 of the USDA South Building (entrance is at the corner of 12th Street and Independence Avenue) immediately after exiting the station. You will be required to show identification at the Guard Desk. Proceed to the South Cafeteria in Wing 3 on the first floor; registration will take place at the back of the Cafeteria.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Smith, Animal Health Technician, Animal Care Staff, REAC, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-4972.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is

responsible for regulating the care provided to certain animals, including dogs and cats in the commercial pet trade. APHIS believes the AWA regulations and standards pertaining to such dogs and cats may need to be updated. APHIS officials are reviewing the pertinent AWA regulations and standards.

In conducting this review, the agency is seeking recommendations and opinions regarding the housing, care, handling, and transportation of dogs and cats in the commercial pet trade. APHIS officials decided to hold three meetings to gather input from the public, animal protection organizations, and members of affected industries, such as dealers, research facilities, and commercial animal transporters. The first two meetings were held in Kansas City, MO, on February 21 and 22, 1996, and in St. Louis, MO, on February 23 and 24, 1996. We have chosen to hold the third meeting in Washington, DC.

The meeting will include four workshops facilitated by trained APHIS facilitators: (1) Space requirements for primary enclosures, including room for exercise; (2) sanitation, materials, flooring, and construction of primary enclosures; (3) veterinary care and breeding frequency; and (4) transportation by land and by air. In these workshops, group participation will be used to develop recommendations within specific topic areas. After the workshops have concluded, each workshop group will report its recommendations to the entire meeting.

APHIS will consider these recommendations in developing any revisions to the current AWA regulations and standards. The Agency will initiate rulemaking for any changes deemed appropriate.

Participants will register to participate in one workshop for the entire meeting. Registration for workshop sessions will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on April 10 at the back of the South Cafeteria, with the general session beginning at 1 p.m. Attendance may be limited for some workshops because of space availability. Any persons who are unable to attend the meeting, but who wish to comment on any topics covered by the four workshops, may send written comments to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 19th day of March 1996.

Lonnie J. King,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-6982 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

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