

employees under Federal-State cooperative agreements, pursuant to the Talmadge-Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 450)?

*Availability of Resources for Federal Oversight of and Assistance to State Programs*

A perennial question to be addressed is the availability of resources for appropriate Federal oversight of State programs to ensure that they are "at least equal to" the Federal program. The resource question is sometimes highlighted when the Agency's oversight of State programs undergoes external evaluation by GAO or OIG, as discussed above. Nevertheless, the ability of the Agency to meet the need for oversight of State programs will continue to be challenged by a scarcity of resources. This challenge is likely to be far greater than it is at present if State-inspected products are permitted to be shipped in interstate commerce, for the volume and geographical distribution of State-inspected products could be greater than they are now, and the handling of the products more complicated.

◆ What is the best way to ensure the continued provision of resources necessary for Federal oversight of State programs?

◆ What would be the effect on State resources of allowing interstate shipment of State-inspected product, especially if large numbers of establishments switch from Federal to State inspection?

◆ In addition, how should the financing of State programs be accomplished? Should USDA continue to pay up to half the cost of operating a State program?

◆ If a wider market were opened to State-inspected products, would sales volumes rise and would State economies be better able to support a larger share of program operations?

The foregoing list of issues is not intended to be inclusive; FSIS recognizes that commenters may suggest other issues and provide comments regarding them. FSIS welcomes comments on other issues related to interstate shipment of meat and poultry from State-inspected establishments.

Done, at Washington, D.C., on: May 3, 1996.

Michael R. Taylor,

*Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety.*

[FR Doc. 96-11456 Filed 5-3-96; 1:40 pm]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Submission For OMB Review;  
Comment Request**

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

*Agency:* Bureau of the Census.  
*Title:* Survey of Public Attitudes Toward Administrative Records Use.  
*Form Number(s):* None — Computer assisted telephone interview.

*Agency Approval Number:* None.  
*Type of Request:* New collection.  
*Burden:* 300 hours.  
*Number of Respondents:* 1,200.  
*Avg Hours Per Response:* 15 minutes.  
*Needs and Uses:* The Census Bureau

is testing the use of administrative records in the Census 2000 to estimate the characteristics of nonresponding households, supplement data for respondents that return incomplete forms, and estimate the number of persons missed within households. To enhance the usability of administrative record information, the Census Bureau is also considering asking respondents in the Census 2000 to provide their Social Security number (SSN). This survey asks respondents to rate their feelings and attitudes toward our use of administrative records and collecting SSN in the census. Knowledge about the public's feelings and attitudes will help the Census Bureau form privacy policy, achieve effective promotion and outreach, and determine language for public use forms.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.  
*Frequency:* One time.  
*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.  
*OMB Desk Officer:* Jerry Coffey, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, Acting DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5312, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Jerry Coffey, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: April 29, 1996.

Linda Engelmeier,

*Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 96-11259 Filed 5-6-96; 8:45 am]

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**National Institute of Standards and Technology**

[Docket No. 960405101-6101-0]

RIN 0693-XX17

**Request To Identify Bodies Interested in European Union (EU) Conformity Assessment Activities**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** This is to advise the public that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is seeking input regarding the identification of bodies which can perform conformity assessment of products that will ultimately be entered into commerce in the European union (EU). This information is requested in support of ongoing negotiations between the United States and the EU for mutual recognition of product approvals pursuant to regulatory requirements. At the present time, we wish to identify and report to the EU those U.S. organizations that believe that they are qualified and are interested in certifying products as being in compliance with mandatory EU product safety requirements, that is, U.S.-based organizations that desire to be recognized as equivalent to notified or competent body status under a U.S.-EU mutual recognition agreement (MRA), as specified in the EU directives covering telecommunications terminal equipment (TTE) (EEC 89/263), electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) (89/336), low voltage electrical equipment (LVD) (EEC 73/23), and recreational craft (EEC 94/25). The areas of present interest are the following: (1) Product testing and quality assessment; (2) quality system registration; (3) evaluation of technical construction files (specific to the EMC directive); and (4) product certification. Copies of the pertinent EU directives and related lists of reference standards are available at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3042, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C., or NIST, building 820, Room 164, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Organizations are invited to inform NIST of their interest in carrying out any of the activities listed above under specific EU directives, indicating the scope of their claimed competence and identifying specific standards, test methods, etc. Organizations should note current accreditation by a recognized national, regional or international accreditation body to a recognized or international standard and, if possible,

provide information demonstrating that they actively engaged in conformity assessment procedures related to relevant EU directives. This may include subcontractor relationships with EU notified or competent bodies.

Based on responses to this notice, NIST will compile a list of interested organizations. This list will be provided to European Commission officials to illustrate the types of organizations that may be qualified and subsequently considered for U.S. designated conformity assessment body status. It is emphasized that organizations do not automatically qualify as designated conformity assessment bodies simply by responding to this notice. Formal application and processing under NVCASE or equivalent program will be required before designated status can be granted. (OMB Control No. 0693-0019).

**DATES:** Comments on this request must be received by June 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted in writing to Dr. Belinda L. Collins, Director, Office of Standards Services, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 820, room 282, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, by fax at 301-963-2871 or by e-mail to belinda.collins@nist.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dr. Belinda L. Collins, in writing at NIST, Building 820, room 282, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, by telephone at 301-975-4000, by fax at 301-963-2871 or by e-mail to belinda.collins@nist.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Government is currently engaged in negotiations with the EU for the purpose of entering into a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) regarding the acceptance of each other's testing and certification programs in regulated product areas. Under the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-113), signed March 7, 1996, NIST is designated as the federal agency with responsibility for coordinating accreditation activities. NIST also operates the National voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) program as a means of providing U.S. domestic entities with a U.S. Government "assurance of competency" to facilitate the acceptance of test data or product certifications issued in this country by governments of other countries on the same basis as test data or product certification issued in the other country.

This notice is a solicitation of interest on the part of U.S. conformity assessment entities in obtaining U.S. government recognition of their

technical competence pursuant to a U.S.-EU MRA.

Interested persons should respond in writing to the above address. All comments submitted in response to this notice will become part of the public record and will be available for inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Commerce Central Reference and Records and Inspection Facility, Room 6020, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Dated: April 30, 1996.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

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**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 042996D]

**Endangered Species; Permits**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Receipt of an application for modification 4 to scientific research/monitoring permit 822 (P500B).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Fish Passage Center at Portland, OR (FPC) has applied in due form for a modification to a permit to take endangered and threatened species for the purpose of scientific research/monitoring.

**DATES:** Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application must be received on or before June 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Environmental and Technical Services Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FPC requests a modification to a permit under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

FPC (P500B) requests modification 4 to permit 822 for an increase in their annual take of ESA-listed species associated with an additional scientific research/monitoring activity, an increase in the number of outmigrating juvenile salmonids in 1996, and recognition of an ESA-listed adult salmon incidental take. Permit 822 authorizes an annual take of juvenile, threatened, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); juvenile, threatened, Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); and juvenile, endangered, Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) associated with scientific research/monitoring activities at upstream locations and at the hydropower dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest.

FPC requests an increase in the number of juvenile, ESA-listed, naturally-produced and artificially-propagated, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with the operation of a second airlift sampler at John Day Dam during the 1996 juvenile outmigration. FPC requests an increase in the number of juvenile, ESA-listed, Snake River sockeye salmon to be captured and handled, and an increase in the resulting indirect mortality of these fish, associated with an increase in the estimate of the number of ESA-listed salmon juveniles expected to outmigrate in 1996. In addition, FPC requests an incidental take of adult and jack, ESA-listed, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with fallbacks through the juvenile bypass systems at Bonneville and John Day Dams on the Columbia River. FPC also requests a modification of their sampling protocol for monitoring juvenile salmonids for symptoms of gas bubble trauma (GBT). An additional take of ESA-listed species is not requested for the modified GBT sampling protocol. Modification 4 is requested for the duration of the permit. Permit 822 expires on December 31, 1997.

Those individuals requesting a hearing (see **ADDRESSES**) should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate. The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in this application summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.