

process. The Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), although not binding upon the Federal Government, is a useful tool in determining the rights and liabilities of the contacting parties in the contract formation process.

Need and Use of the Information:

There are six versions of bid forms divided into three categories. The same information is requested within each category, with minor differences in how respondents display the bid. The Forest Service decides on the form used for a sale or contract prior to advertising. A variety of factors affects the decision, including size, complexity, value and length of the contract. Respondents must use the form identified/provided by the Forest Service and cannot submit a response in a different format. This collection is required for the private sector to be considered for the benefit of National Forest System timber under various contract forms. To be considered for award of these contracts, bid forms must be submitted.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households;

Number of Respondents: 1,824.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 118,018.

Levi S. Harrell,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025-00373 Filed 1-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2014-0062]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a modified system of records.

SUMMARY: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is modifying a system of records in its inventory of records systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. The system of records being modified is the Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) National Information Communication Activity System (SNICAS), USDA/APHIS-21. SNICAS maintains a record of activities conducted by the agency pursuant to its mission and authorized responsibilities. The purpose of the system is to record

data and information about APHIS' SITC activities nationwide. We are modifying the system to exempt the system from certain provisions of the Privacy Act.

DATES: The exemption will become effective on February 10, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions, please contact Mr. Ricardo Valdez, Pest Exclusion and Import Programs, National Policy Manager, SITC, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737; (443) 745-7931; *SITC.Mail@usda.gov*. For Privacy Act questions concerning this system of records notice, please contact Director, Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Staff, 4700 River Road Unit 50, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-4076; email: *APHISPrivacy@usda.gov*. For USDA Privacy Act questions, please contact the USDA Chief Privacy Officer, Information Security Center, Office of Chief Information Officer, USDA, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250; email: *USDAPrivacy@usda.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), notice is given that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing to modify a system of records, USDA/APHIS-21, Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) National Information Communication Activity System (SNICAS).

On July 11, 2022, APHIS published SNICAS as a new system of records in the **Federal Register** (87 FR 41098-41101, Docket No. APHIS-2014-0062). (To view the notice, go to *www.regulations.gov*, and enter APHIS-2014-0062 in the Search field.) SNICAS maintains a record of activities conducted by the agency pursuant to its mission and responsibilities authorized by the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*); the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*); and the Honey Bee Act (7 U.S.C. 281 *et seq.*). The purpose of the system is to record data and information about APHIS' SITC activities nationwide. SITC is within APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program.

SITC officials use the information in SNICAS to identify and close pathways used for the introduction of prohibited commodities and those regulated commodities that lack the necessary certificates and permits to enter U.S. commerce. SITC officials also use SNICAS to perform activities such as legal and regulatory actions; scientific research; risk, trend, pathway and

targeting analyses; trade support; administrative and budgetary support; supervision and program management; and overall decision support services. Additionally, SITC officials use SNICAS to generate reports to evaluate the risk status of the commercial sites where regulated commodities are seized, the effectiveness of the program, and quality control of the data.

Among other things, in addition to listing the routine uses and how information in the system is used, APHIS will share information from the system pursuant to the requirements of the Privacy Act and, in the case of its routine uses, when the disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the information was compiled. APHIS proposed to exempt specific records in the system from certain Privacy Act requirements in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2) (Investigative Law Enforcement Materials). APHIS proposed to exempt the system from Privacy Act access requirements including 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3); (d); (e)(1); (e)(4)(G), (H), and (I); and (f), and indicated that an individual who is the subject of a record in this system may not seek access to those records that are exempt from the access provisions. A determination of whether a record may be accessed would be made at the time a request is received.

We solicited comments on the SNICAS system of records notice for 30 days ending on August 10, 2022. We received no comments.

Concurrently with the publication of the SNICAS system of records notice, we published a proposed rule in accordance with the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(b), (c), and (d) in the same issue of the **Federal Register** (87 FR 41077-41078, Docket No. APHIS-2015-0008) to exempt the SNICAS system of records from certain provisions of the Privacy Act to prevent interference with law enforcement functions.

We solicited comments on the proposed rule for 30 days ending August 10, 2022. We received no comments by that date. A final rule has been issued in accordance with the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(b), (c), and (d) and has been published in today's **Federal Register** (Docket No. APHIS-2015-0008).

Therefore, we are modifying the SNICAS system of records to add the exemption for law enforcement purposes pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2) of the Privacy Act.

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

USDA/APHIS-21, Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) National Information

Communication Activity System (SNICAS).

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Sensitive but unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), maintains records in a Government-approved cloud server accessed through secure data centers in the continental United States. Paper files are held at various Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance national, district, and field offices.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S):

Deputy Administrator of Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737.

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EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

The Agency has exempted this system from subsections (c)(3); (d); (e)(1); (e)(4)(G), (H), and (I); and (f) of the Privacy Act pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2). The exemptions will be applied only to the extent that the information in the system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2).

HISTORY:

Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) National Information Communication Activity System (SNICAS), USDA/APHIS-21, was published as a new system in its entirety on July 11, 2022, (87 FR 41098-41101, Docket No. APHIS-2014-0062).

A report on the modified system of records, required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r), as implemented by Office of Management and Budget Circular A-108, was sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Chairman and Ranking

Member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Administrator of the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of December 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2025-00335 Filed 1-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2023-0058]

Veterinary Services User Fees

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing adjusted user fee rates for the costs of providing certain goods and services, including veterinary diagnostic goods and services and veterinary services for imports and exports of live animals and animal products. This action is necessary because the regulations provide that APHIS will issue such a notice. This action ensures that the fees charged more closely align with the costs of providing the goods or services, thus ensuring program solvency.

DATES: The fee rates in this notice go into effect January 10, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the user fee activities covered by this notice, contact Ms. Lisa Slimmer, User Fee Financial Team Manager, Veterinary Services Money Management, 920 Main Campus Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606; (919) 414-7205.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 9 CFR part 130 (referred to below as the regulations or the user fee regulations), cover user fees to reimburse the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for the costs of providing veterinary diagnostic services and import/export related services for live animals, animal products and byproducts, poultry, birds, germplasm, organisms, and vectors. These user fees are authorized by section 2509(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (FACT Act) of 1990, as amended (21 U.S.C. 136a(c)), which provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may, among other things, prescribe regulations and collect fees to recover the costs of providing import/export related services for animals, animal products and byproducts, birds, germplasm, organisms, and vectors, and for veterinary diagnostics relating to the control and eradication of communicable diseases of livestock or poultry within the United States.

Since fiscal year 1992, APHIS has received no directly appropriated funds

to cover the cost of certain veterinary diagnostics or to provide import/export related services for animals, animal products and byproducts, birds, germplasm, organisms, and vectors. Our ability to provide these services depends on user fees. User fees are associated with providing services for live animal, animal product, bird, and germplasm imports and exports and the user fees fund, among other things, quarantine services, the processing of import permit applications, port of entry inspections, inspections and approvals of import/export facilities and establishments, endorsements of export certificates, and services related to emergency situations that arise during the export or import process.

On August 1, 2023, APHIS published a final rule in the **Federal Register** that revised the regulations (88 FR 49994-50002, Docket No. APHIS-2021-0052, referred to below as the August 2023 final rule).¹ This final rule removed tables providing the individual fees from the regulations and instead indicated that they are posted on the following website: www.aphis.usda.gov/business-services/vs-fees. It also provided that, on an annual basis, APHIS would propose changes to the fee rates through publication of a notice in the **Federal Register**.

On November 8, 2024, we published the first such notice in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 88697, Docket No. APHIS-2023-0058, referred to below as the November 2024 notice).²

We solicited comments on the notice for 30 days, ending on December 9, 2024. We received 33 comments by that date from industry groups and private citizens.

General Comment

Four of the commenters supported the fee increases articulated in the notice. One of these commenters asked if the revenue generated by the fee increases would be used to reopen a USDA APHIS office in Conyers, Georgia.

We are uncertain what office the commenter is referring to because the USDA APHIS office in Conyers, Georgia is currently open.

Similarly, a commenter asked us if the additional revenue generated by the fees would go to additional staffing of

¹ To view the final rule, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document/APHIS-2021-0052-0014>.

² To view the notice or the comments that we received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/APHIS-2023-0058>. Additionally, please note that on November 22, 2024, we issued a correction to the notice to provide a proposed fee that was inadvertently omitted from table 21 in the initial notice.