

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; FNS-260, Acquisition for Food Coupon Books

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collection contained in form FCS-260, Requisition for Food Coupon Books.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Suzanne Fecteau, Branch Chief, Redemption Management Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request

for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne Fecteau, (703) 305-2418.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Acquisition for Food Coupon Books.

*OMB Number:* 0584-0022.

*Form Number:* FCS-260.

*Expiration Date:* 08/31/98.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Section 7(e) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2016(e)) requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prescribe appropriate procedures for the delivery of food coupon books to coupon issuers. States and local agencies use Form FNS-260, Requisition of Food Coupon Books, to order supplies of coupon books. The forms are completed and submitted in hard copy or electronic format to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regional office. The hard-copy format is normally used only when the electronic format is unavailable. The regional offices enter the order for coupon books into a database where it is automatically reviewed for conformance with policy for ordering. After the order passes the edit checks, FNS then transmits them electronically to the contractor who ships the coupon books. No coupon books are shipped until a completed order has been received and approved by FNS. The order of coupon books is essential to carrying out the policy of the Act of 1977.

The need to print and order food coupons as the sole benefit delivery instrument for the Food Stamp Program has changed. Many areas of the country have switched to Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems and no longer issue food coupons to participating households. This has resulted in a direct reduction in the number of States and local agencies completing and submitting food coupon book orders. However, some areas are still using coupons and we must continue to require these areas to order food coupon books. The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of this information collection expires on August 31, 1998. We intend to seek an extension of OMB's approval for an additional 3 years.

The number of respondents that must complete and submit food coupon orders is estimated to be 1,000 annually; a reduction of 150 respondents. It is estimated that respondents will order coupons at least once every six months. It is further estimated that it takes about 30 minutes to complete and transmit the coupon book order. Thus, total annual burden associated with this information collection is estimated to be 3,000 hours annually (1,000 × 6 × 30 minutes).

It should be noted that current versions of this form reflect our agency name as the Food and Consumer Service and the form number as FCS-260. The form will be revised at the next opportunity to change the agency's name to the Food and Nutrition Service and the form number to FNS-260. The hard-copy version of the form will also be revised when the current supply is exhausted.

*Affected Public:* State and local governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per respondent:* 6,000.

*Estimated Time per Response:* one half hour.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 3,000 hours; a reduction of 450 annually.

Dated: March 16, 1998.

**Yvette S. Jackson,**

*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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

*Agency:* Bureau of Export Administration (BXA).

*Title:* Survey of the U.S. High Performance Military Explosives and Components Sector to Assess the Current Status of Military-Grade Explosive R&D and Manufacturing in the United States.

*Agency Form Number:* N/A.