

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 86, No. 187

Thursday, September 30, 2021

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

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection 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. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by November 1, 2021. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### Agricultural Marketing Service

*Title:* Accounts Payable Information Request.

*OMB Control Number:* 0581–New.  
*Summary of Collection:* The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA) (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627) directs and authorizes USDA to develop and improve standards of quality, grades, grading programs, and certification services which facilitate the marketing of agricultural products. To provide programs and services, section 203(h) of the AMA (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)) directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to inspect, certify, and identify the class, quality, quantity, and condition of agricultural products under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, including assessment and collection of fees for the cost of service. The regulations in 7 CFR 54, 56, and 70 provide a voluntary program for grading, certification and standards of meats, prepared meats, meat products, shell eggs, poultry products, and rabbit products. The regulation in 7 CFR 62—Quality Systems Verification Programs provides for voluntary, audit-based, user-fee funded programs that allow applicants to have program documentation and program processes assessed by AMS auditor(s) and other USDA officials.

AMS also provides other types of voluntary services under these regulations, including contract and specification acceptance services and verification of product, processing, further processing, temperature, and quantity. Because this is a voluntary program, respondents request or apply for the specific service they wish, and in doing so, they provide information.

To assist AMS billing administration for providing voluntary services, AMS intends to create a new form to request respondents accounts payable contact information. The new form, LP–109A: Accounts Payable Information Request will increase accuracy and efficiency in billing administration by having the applicable contact responsible for receiving billing statements and submitting payment for services rendered.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of USDA

AMS, Livestock and Poultry Program's QAD national and field staff and is used to administer services requested by respondents. The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of AMA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals or Households.

*Number of Respondents:* 164.

*Frequency of Responses:* Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 40.

Dated: September 27, 2021.

**Levi S. Harrell,**

*Departmental Information Collection  
Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2021–21310 Filed 9–29–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–02–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Commodity Credit Corporation

[Docket ID: USDA–2021–0010]

### Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation, Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area, Office of Chief Economist, and Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** As part of our (USDA) broader efforts on climate change, we are requesting information (comments) from the public on a Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program. In response to the Executive Order titled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, we published a **Federal Register** notice on March 16, 2021, to request comments on a Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) strategy. Based on public comments received and our ongoing stakeholder engagement activities, we published a progress report in May 2021 on the CSAF strategy. As one element of the CSAF strategy, we are considering actions to expand the use of climate-smart farming practices and aid in the marketing of agricultural commodities. The term "climate-smart commodity" is used to refer to an agricultural commodity that is produced using farming practices that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or

sequester carbon. This requested information is intended to help test development of a Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program that could encourage adoption of CSAF practices and promote markets for climate-smart commodities. The Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program could be developed under the authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act of 1933. This document requests comments on priorities and program design of the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program that would facilitate the expansion of markets for agricultural commodities.

**DATES:** We will consider comments received on or before 11:59 p.m. (ET) on November 1, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments on this notice. You may submit comments by going to <http://www.regulations.gov> and searching for Docket ID: USDA–2021–0010. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the Written Comments section below.

Comments will be available for inspection online at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

If you have questions, email them to: [ccpooce@usda.gov](mailto:ccpooce@usda.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

In response to Executive Order 14008, dated January 27, 2021, and titled, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, we published a **Federal Register** notice on March 16, 2021 (86 FR 14403–14404), to request comments on a CSAF strategy. Based on public comments received and our ongoing stakeholder engagement activities, we published a progress report on the CSAF strategy.<sup>1</sup> As one element of this strategy, we are considering actions to expand the use of climate-smart farming practices and aid in the marketing of agricultural commodities. The term “climate-smart commodity” is used to refer to an agricultural commodity that is produced using farming practices that reduce GHG emissions or sequester carbon.

We will use the public comments to inform the possible development of a USDA Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program, which could encourage adoption of CSAF practices and promote markets for

climate-smart commodities. Through this request for information, we are requesting suggestions for priorities within the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program. The Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program could be developed under the authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 714 Section 5(e)).

The public comments will provide valuable information to USDA, as well as the private sector and other stakeholders with interest in and expertise relating to the expansion of opportunities for CSAF practices, as well as markets for climate-smart commodities.

New markets for climate-smart commodities provide an opportunity and a challenge for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. Domestic and international consumers are demonstrating a preference for agricultural commodities produced using CSAF practices, creating new market opportunities for producers. Markets for climate-smart commodities include sustainable supply chain initiatives and internal corporate commitments where companies are pledging to reduce emissions within their own supply chains and production facilities. Opportunities also include markets for low-carbon biofuels and renewable energy. Agricultural producers and landowners also have opportunities to market GHG reductions generated as a part of climate-smart commodity production.

Despite the opportunity for new or expanded markets for climate-smart commodities described above, there are barriers that have prevented these markets from reaching scale. The barriers include:

- The lack of standard definitions of climate-smart commodities;
- Lack of clear standards for measurement of climate benefits of CSAF practices;
- Potential for double-counting benefits;
- High transaction costs;
- Limited ability for small producer participation;
- Lack of efficient supply chain traceability; and
- High risk of market entry.

We are exploring options to reduce and remove barriers currently limiting the development of new market opportunities for CSAF practices and climate-smart commodities. USDA is requesting comments on options for promoting CSAF, including systems for quantification, options, and criteria for proposal evaluation, use of information collected, potential protocols, and

options for review and verification. Additionally, we are requesting comments on how U.S. Government action might encourage CSAF practices by leveraging private-sector demand and providing new income streams for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

We are requesting comments from the public, including, but not limited to, comments from:

1. Farmers and farmer organizations;
2. Commodity groups;
3. Livestock producer groups;
4. Environmental organizations;
5. Agriculture businesses and technology companies;
6. Environmental market organizations;
7. Renewable energy organizations;
8. Tribal organizations and governments;
9. Organizations representing historically underrepresented producers;
10. Organizations representing historically underrepresented communities, local producers, and micro-producers;
11. Forest landowners and forest landowner organizations; and
12. Private corporations.

##### **Written Comments**

Written comments should not exceed 10 pages, inclusive of a 1-page cover page as described below. Attachments or linked resources or documents are not included in the 10-page limit. Please write concisely, in plain language, and in narrative format. You may respond to some or all of the questions listed in this document. Please note the question to which you are responding in your comment. You may also include links to online material or interactive presentations but please ensure all links are publicly available. Each comment should include:

- The name of the individual(s) and organization submitting the comment.
- The question(s) (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7) that your comment supports.
- A brief description of the commenter's (individual(s) or organization's) mission or areas of expertise, including any public-private partnerships with Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local governments within the past 3 years that are relevant to this document; and
- A contact for questions or other follow-up on your comment.

By commenting in response to this document, each participant (individual, team, or legal entity) warrants that they are the sole author or owner of, or has the right to use, any copyrightable works that are included in the comment,

<sup>1</sup> The progress report is available at the following link: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/climate-smart-ag-forestry-strategy-90-day-progress-report.pdf>.

that the works are wholly original (or is an improved version of an existing work that the participant has sufficient rights to use and improve), and that the comment does not infringe any copyright or any other rights of any third party of which the participant is aware.

Participants will not be required to transfer their intellectual property rights to USDA, but by providing the comment, the participant(s) grants to the Federal government a nonexclusive license to apply, share, and use the materials that are included in the comment. By providing the comment to the Federal government, each participant must warrant that there are no legal obstacles to providing the above-referenced nonexclusive licenses of participant's rights to the Federal government.

Interested parties who comment in response to this document may be contacted for a follow-up strategic agency assessment dialogue, discussion, event, crowdsourcing campaign, or competition.

### Questions

We are requesting comments relating to the following questions:

1. How would existing private sector and state compliance markets for carbon offsets be impacted from this potential federal program?

2. In order to expand markets, what should the scope of the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program be, including in terms of geography, scale, project focus, and project activities supported?

3. In order to expand markets, what types of CSAF project activities should be eligible for funding through the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program? Projects should promote the production of climate-smart commodities and support adoption of CSAF practices. Examples may include:

a. Activities that develop standardized supply chain accounting for carbon-friendly products; activities that provide supply chain traceability; innovative financing for low-carbon fuel from agricultural feedstocks; or green labeling efforts, among others;

b. Activities that supply grants, loans, and loan guarantees to producers for equipment needed to implement CSAF practices, or for capital-intensive CSAF technologies;

c. Activities that test and evaluate standardized protocols that define eligible CSAF practices, quantification methodologies, and verification requirements, with an emphasis on minimizing transaction costs and operating at scale;

d. Activities that evaluate options for tracking climate-smart commodities, including book-and-claim systems and systems to record and register the GHG benefits generated through CSAF practices;

e. Activities that generate voluntary carbon offsets through CSAF practices. Within carbon offset markets, the GHG benefit is separated from the commodity and sold as a carbon offset credit. Should the USDA consider hybrid approaches where the GHG benefit could be assigned to a climate-smart commodity, or separated and sold as a voluntary carbon offset?

4. In order to expand markets, what entities should be eligible to apply for funding through the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program? Given that the administrative costs of the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program could be high if USDA were to contract with individual producers or landowners, it makes more sense to work with groups of producers and landowners. For example, eligible entities may include an agricultural producer association or other group of producers; State, Tribe, or unit of local government; a farmer cooperative; a carbon offset project developer; an organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural land, as determined by USDA (for example, a non-governmental organization); a conservation district; and an institution of higher education, including cooperative extension;

5. In order to expand markets, what criteria should be used to evaluate project proposals for receiving funding through the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program?

a. For example, potential criteria may include estimated GHG or carbon sequestration benefits; estimated costs; potential for addressing identified barriers for producers; ability to benefit underserved producers and early adopters; environmental justice benefits; and demonstrated capability to ensure success.

b. Should USDA establish a consistent payment per ton of GHG generated through these partnership projects as part of the project payment structure, or evaluate a range of incentive options?

6. In order to expand markets, which CSAF practices should be eligible for inclusion?

a. What systems for quantification and key metrics should be used to assess the benefits of projects funded through the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program?

b. What should the quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verification

requirements for projects funded through the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program be?

c. What types of systems should be used or supported to track participation, implementation, and potential benefits generated?

d. What types of data and metrics should be collected and reported to determine project success and GHG benefits delivered? How should the data and metrics be analyzed to inform future decisions?

7. How should ownership of potential GHG benefits that may be generated be managed?

8. How can USDA ensure that partnership projects are equitable and strive to include a wide range of landowners and producers?

a. How can the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program include early adopters of CSAF practices?

b. How can the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program be designed to ensure that benefits flow to historically underserved producers?

c. How can the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program be designed to ensure that benefits flow to historically underserved communities?

d. How can the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Program be designed to ensure that benefits are provided to producers?

### USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family or parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (for example, braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 or 844-433-2774 (toll-free nationwide). Additionally, program information may

be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA, and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or email: [OAC@usda.gov](mailto:OAC@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Robert Ibarra,**

*Commodity Credit Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2021-21368 Filed 9-29-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-GL-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Limitations of Duty- and Quota-Free Imports of Apparel Articles Assembled in Beneficiary Sub-Saharan African Countries From Regional and Third-Country Fabric

**AGENCY:** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Publishing the new 12-month cap on duty- and quota-free benefits.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* The new limitations become effective October 1, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Newberg, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 510-3982 [thomas.newberg@trade.gov](mailto:thomas.newberg@trade.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Authority:* Title I, Section 112(b)(3) of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA 2000), Public Law (P.L.) 106-200, as amended by Division B, Title XXI, section 3108 of the Trade Act of 2002, P.L. 107-210; Section 7(b)(2) of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004, P.L. 108-274; Division D, Title VI, section 6002 of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA 2006), P.L. 109-432, and section 1 of The African Growth and Opportunity Amendments (P.L. 112-163), August 10, 2012; Presidential Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000 (65 FR 59321);

Presidential Proclamation 7626 of November 13, 2002 (67 FR 69459); and Title I, Section 103(b)(2) and (3) of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, P.L. 114-27, June 29, 2015.

Title I of TDA 2000 provides for duty- and quota-free treatment for certain textile and apparel articles imported from designated beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. Section 112(b)(3) of TDA 2000 provides duty- and quota-free treatment for apparel articles wholly assembled in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from fabric wholly formed in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from yarn originating in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. This preferential treatment is also available for apparel articles assembled in one or more lesser-developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric used to make such articles, subject to quantitative limitation. P.L. 114-27 extended this special rule for lesser-developed countries through September 30, 2025.

The AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 provides that the quantitative limitation for the 12-month period beginning October 1, 2021 will be an amount not to exceed seven percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available. *See* Section 112(b)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of TDA 2000, as amended by Section 7(b)(2)(B) of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004. Of this overall amount, apparel imported under the special rule for lesser-developed countries is limited to an amount not to exceed 3.5 percent of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period. *See* Section 112(b)(3)(B)(ii)(II) of TDA 2000, as amended by Section 6002(a)(3) of TRHCA 2006. The Annex to Presidential Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000 directed CITA to publish the aggregate quantity of imports allowed during each 12-month period in the **Federal Register**.

For the one-year period, beginning on October 1, 2021, and extending through September 30, 2022, the aggregate quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under these provisions is 2,066,936,295 square meters equivalent. Of this amount, 1,033,468,148 square meters equivalent is available to apparel articles imported under the special rule for lesser-developed countries. Apparel articles entered in excess of these quantities will

be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs.

These quantities are calculated using the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States, derived from the set of Harmonized System lines listed in the Annex to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), and the conversion factors for units of measure into square meter equivalents used by the United States in implementing the ATC.

Dated: September 27, 2021.

**Paul E. Morris,**

*Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 2021-21314 Filed 9-29-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-428-850]

### Thermal Paper From Germany: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that thermal paper from Germany is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation is October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020.

**DATES:** Applicable September 30, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Goldberger, AD/CVD Operations, Office II, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4136.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

On May 12, 2021, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the preliminary affirmative determination in the LTFV investigation of thermal paper from Germany, in which we also postponed the final determination until September 24, 2021.<sup>1</sup> Commerce invited

<sup>1</sup> See *Thermal Paper from Germany: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures*, 86 FR 26001 (May 12, 2021) (*Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum (PDM); see also *Thermal*