

Title: RD Form 410-8, "Applicant Reference Letter".

OMB Number: 0575-0091.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1999.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The rural housing loan program under Section 502 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, provides eligible persons who live in rural areas with an opportunity to own adequate but modest, decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings and related facilities. Also, the Section 504 loan/grant programs assist eligible very low-income owner/occupants to repair or rehabilitate single family homes in rural areas. Applicants are required to furnish information concerning their credit history to RHS when they apply for assistance. In both programs, RD Form 410-8 is used to obtain information about an applicant's credit history that might not appear on a credit report. It is used to document an ability to handle credit effectively for applicants who have not used sources of credit that appear on a credit report. It also provides a mechanism for following up on repayment history for debts reported by the applicant on the application that do not appear on the credit report. This information is used by the Loan Originator serving the area in which the applicant or borrower will live to determine whether the applicant's credit history meets the Agency criteria. In addition to supplementing or verifying other debts when a credit report is limited and unavailable to determine the applicant's eligibility and credit worthiness, the RD Form 410-8 is used because credit reports are not always used when an applicant/borrower lives in a remote area; therefore, the form is widely used by the Agency to obtain credit information.

RHS must, by law, make available to the applicant, upon request, the source of information used to make an adverse decision. Individual references may be solicited with the clear understanding that if the information is used to deny credit, the information will be made available to the applicant upon request. If this information was not collected, RHS would be unable to evaluate an applicant's credit history.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 28,523.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 28,238 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Brenda Frost, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0037.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS'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 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 may be sent to Brenda Frost, Regulation and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0742. 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.

Dated: September 2, 1999.

Alan Stephens,

Acting Administrator Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 99-24320 Filed 9-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Texas A&M University; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 99-012. *Applicant:* Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3122. *Instrument:* Densitometer and Balance. *Manufacturer:* Rubotherm, Germany.

Intended Use: See notice at 64 FR 35126, June 30, 1999.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States.

Reasons: The foreign instrument provides: (1) Density measurements for corrosive materials using a magnetic suspension balance for weighing the sample with a mechanism located outside the measuring chamber and (2) a load capacity of 100 gm and resolution of 0.02 mg. A domestic manufacturer of similar equipment advised August 18, 1999 that (1) these capabilities are pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 99-24462 Filed 9-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 091499A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (RDSAP).

DATES: This meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 4, 1999, and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October, 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Hood, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619; telephone: 813-228-2815.