the United States, Europe, and Asia and is already found in foods, animals feeds, and in medicines (MRID 44821916). The plant has been consumed in the human diet in Japan for generations without any known adverse effects. The active components stimulated by *Reynoutria sachalinensis* are phenolics which have health benefits and are already present in vegetables. Exempting *Reynoutria sachalinensis* from the requirement of a tolerance should pose no significant risk to humans or the environment.

G. Effects on the Immune and Endocrine Systems

To date there is no evidence to suggest that *Reynoutria sachalinensis* functions in a manner similar to any known hormone, or that it acts as an endocrine disrupter.

H. Efficacy

When applied to certain crop plants, this product raises the plants natural defense system by increasing the existing phenolic compounds in the leaf tissue. Current research indicates that the plant diseases affected by these natural phytoalexins are powdery mildews, gray mold, and fire blight. These diseases are economically important problems in both ornamental and food crop plants.

I. Existing Tolerances

There are no existing tolerances of any type for the extract of *Reynoutria sachalinensis* in the United States.

J. International Tolerances

The IR–4 program and the registrant, KHH BioSci, Inc., are not aware of any tolerances, exemptions from tolerance or maximum residue levels (MRLs) issued for the extract of *Reynoutria sachalinensis* outside of the United States. No MRLs have been established for the extract of *Reynoutria sachalinensis* by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

[FR Doc. 04–7200 Filed 3–30–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–S

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

[Public Notice 61]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Export-Import Bank, as a part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed information collection as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The purpose of the survey is to fulfill a statutory mandate (The Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 635) which directs Ex-Im Bank to report annually to the U.S. Congress any action taken toward providing export credit programs that are competitive with those offered by official foreign export credit agencies. The Act further stipulates that the annual report on competitiveness should include the results of a survey of U.S. exporters and U.S. commercial lending institutions which provide export credit to determine their experience in meeting financial competition from other countries whose exporters compete with U.S. exporters.

Accordingly, Ex-Im Bank is requesting that the proposed survey (EIB N. 00–02) be sent to approximately 120 respondents that use Ex-Im Bank's medium- and long-term programs. The revised survey is similar to the previous survey, as it asks bankers and exporters to evaluate the competitiveness of Ex-Im Bank's programs *vis-á-vis* foreign export credit agencies. However, it has been modified in order to account for newer policies and to capture enough information to provide a better analysis of our competitiveness. In addition, the survey will be available on Ex-Im Bank's Web site, *www.exim.gov*, with recipients encouraged to respond on-line as well.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before June 1, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all requests for additional information to Alan Jensen, Export-Import Bank of the U.S., 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., room 1279, Washington, DC 20571, (202) 565–3767.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: With respect to the proposed collection of information, Ex-Im Bank invites comments as to:

—Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of Ex-Im Bank, including whether the information will have a practical use;

—The accuracy of Ex-Im Bank's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

—Ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

—Ways to minimize the burden of 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; *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses.

Title and Form Number: 2003 Exporter & Banker Survey of Ex-Im Bank Competitiveness, EIB Form 00–02.

OMB Number: 3048–0004.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Annual Number of Respondents: 120.

Annual Burden Hours: 120.

Frequency of Reporting or Use: Annual Survey.

Dated: March 24, 2004.

Solomon Bush,

Agency Clearance Officer.

BILLING CODE 6690–01–M

COMPETITIVENESS REPORT SURVEY 2003

The survey has been submitted to Exlm. You no longer can update the submission information. Below is a snapshot of the information you provided. If you any questions, please email crsurvey03@exim.gov.

Competitiveness Report Survey

PART 1 - EXPORTER/LENDER COMPANY PROFILE

Years in Business
Years in Exporting/Trade Finance
Have you used Ex-Im Bank's medium-term or long-term program in the previous calendar year?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Which medium/long-term programs did you use? Check all that apply:

- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Loan
- ☐ Guarantee

Compared to 2002, my 2003 volume of exports/trade finance was:

- ○ Higher
- ○ Same
- ○ Lower

You are ○ **-Please Select-** ○ **Lender** ○ **Exporter**

Competitiveness Report Survey

PART 2-EXPERIENCE WITH FOREIGN EXPORT CREDIT AGENCIES (ECAs)

Please indicate your experience in the previous calendar year in using, receiving support from or working with other official ECAs. Please select the appropriate answer for each ECA listed.

Canada (EDC)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
France (Coface)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Germany (Hermes)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Italy (SACE)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Japan (JBIC)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Japan (NEXI)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
UK (ECGD)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None

Please indicate your experience in the previous calendar year in facing competitors that received support from foreign official ECAs. Please select the appropriate answer for each ECA listed.

Canada (EDC)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
France (Coface)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None

Germany (Hermes)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Italy (SACE)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Japan (JBIC)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Japan (NEXI)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
UK (ECGD)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None

Why did you approach Ex-Im Bank for support? Please indicate the approximate frequency with which each of the following challenges or needs arise, as well as a typical region or situation that presents such a challenge/need.

Challange / Need	Frequency				Typical Region or Situation
Face competition from companies that receive ECA support	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None	
Find a lack of useful private market financing available	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None	
Need continuing U.S. government involvement	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None	
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None	
Other (Identify)	○ Frequent	○ Regular	○ Rare	○ None	

PART 3 - EXPERIENCE WITH EX-IM BANK AS COMPARED TO FOREIGN ECAs

Using the guide below, please grade Ex-Im Bank as it compares to other ECAs in the following categories:

A+	= Fully competitive. Consistently equal to the (or is the sole) ECA offering the most competitive position on this element. Levels the playing field on this element with the most competitive offer from any of the major ECAs.
A	= Generally competitive. Consistently offers terms on this element equal to the average terms of the typical major ECA. Levels the playing field on this element with the typical offer from the major ECAs.
A-/B+	= In between A and B
B	= Modestly competitive. Consistently offers terms on this element equal to the least competitive of the major ECAs. Does not quite level the playing field on this element with most of the major ECAs.
B-/C+	= In between B and C
C	= Barely competitive. Consistently offers terms on this element that are a notch below = Barely competitive. Consistently offers terms on this element that are a notch below element that may, to a certain extent, be compensated for in other elements or by exporter concessions.
D	Uncompetitive. Consistently offers terms on this element that are far below those offered by other major ECAs. Puts exporter at financing disadvantage on this element so significant that it is difficult to compensate for and may be enough to lose a deal.
F	=Does not provide program or element

Core Business Policies and Practises

Ex-Im Bank's Cover Policy

Scope of Country Risk	◯ -Select-	◯ A	◯ B	◯ C	◯ D	◯ -N/A-
	◯ A+	◯ A-/B+	◯ B-/C+	◯ C-/D+	◯ F	
Depth of Non-Sovereign Risk	◯ -Select-					
	◯ A+					
	◯ A					
	◯ A-/B+					
	◯ B					
	◯ B-/C+					
	◯ C					
	◯ C-/D+					
	◯ D					
	◯ F					
	◯ -N/A-					
Breadth of availability	◯ -Select-					
	◯ A+					
	◯ A					
	◯ A-/B+					
	◯ B					
	◯ B-/C+					
	◯ C					
	◯ C-/D+					
	◯ D					
	◯ F					
	◯ -N/A-					
Interest Rates Provided by Ex-Im Bank						
Loans (CIRR)	◯ -Select-					
	◯ A+					
	◯ A					
	◯ A-/B+					
	◯ B					
	◯ B-/C+					
	◯ C					
	◯ C-/D+					
	◯ D					
	◯ F					
	◯ -N/A-					
Insurance Cover	◯ -Select-					
	◯ A+					
	◯ A					
	◯ A-/B+					
	◯ B					
	◯ B-/C+					
	◯ C					
	◯ C-/D+					
	◯ D					
	◯ F					
	◯ -N/A-					
Guarantee Cover						

	○ -Select- ○ A+ ○ A ○ A-/B+ ○ B ○ B-/C+ ○ C ○ C-/D+ ○ D ○ F ○ -N/A-
Ex-Im Bank's Risk Premia on	
Sovereign	○ -Select- ○ A+ ○ A ○ A-/B+ ○ B ○ B-/C+ ○ C ○ C-/D+ ○ D ○ F ○ -N/A-
Non-Sovereign	○ -Select- ○ A+ ○ A ○ A-/B+ ○ B ○ B-/C+ ○ C ○ C-/D+ ○ D ○ F ○ -N/A-

Do you have any comments on Ex-Im Bank's cover policy, interest rates or risk premia as they compare to those offered by other ECAs For example, what core business policies and practices, if changed, would impact your competitiveness? Please be as specific as possible.

Major Programs and Performance

Ex-Im Banks' Large Aircraft Program

Interest Rate

	○ -Select- ○ A+ ○ A ○ A-/B+ ○ B ○ B-/C+ ○ C ○ C-/D+ ○ D ○ F ○ -N/A-
	○ -Select- ○ A+ ○ A ○ A-/B+ ○ B ○ B-/C+ ○ C ○ C-/D+ ○ D ○ F ○ -N/A-
Risk Capacity	○ -Select- ○ A+ ○ A ○ A-/B+ ○ B ○ B-/C+ ○ C ○ C-/D+ ○ D ○ F ○ -N/A-
Ex-Im Bank's Project Finance	
Core Program features	○ -Select- ○ A+ ○ A ○ A-/B+ ○ B ○ B-/C+ ○ C ○ C-/D+ ○ D ○ F ○ -N/A-
Repayment Flexibilities	

- ◯ -Select-
- ◯ A+
- ◯ A
- ◯ A-/B+
- ◯ B
- ◯ B-/C+
- ◯ C
- ◯ C-/D+
- ◯ D
- ◯ F
- ◯ -N/A-

Ex-Im Bank's Co-Financing

and utility of bilateral agreements

- ◯ -Select-
- ◯ A+
- ◯ A
- ◯ A-/B+
- ◯ B
- ◯ B-/C+
- ◯ C
- ◯ C-/D+
- ◯ D
- ◯ F
- ◯ -N/A-

Flexibility in One-Off deal

- ◯ -Select-
- ◯ A+
- ◯ A
- ◯ A-/B+
- ◯ B
- ◯ B-/C+
- ◯ C
- ◯ C-/D+
- ◯ D
- ◯ F
- ◯ -N/A-

Ex-Im Bank's Foreign Currency Guarantee

Availability of Hard Currency Cover

- ◯ -Select-
- ◯ A+
- ◯ A
- ◯ A-/B+
- ◯ B
- ◯ B-/C+
- ◯ C
- ◯ C-/D+
- ◯ D
- ◯ F
- ◯ -N/A-

Availability of Local Currency Cover

	◯ -Select- ◯ A+ ◯ A ◯ A-/B+ ◯ B ◯ B-/C+ ◯ C ◯ C-/D+ ◯ D ◯ F ◯ -N/A-
Pricing	◯ -Select- ◯ A+ ◯ A ◯ A-/B+ ◯ B ◯ B-/C+ ◯ C ◯ C-/D+ ◯ D ◯ F ◯ -N/A-
Ex-Im Bank's Support for Service Exports	
Availability	◯ -Select- ◯ A+ ◯ A ◯ A-/B+ ◯ B ◯ B-/C+ ◯ C ◯ C-/D+ ◯ D ◯ F ◯ -N/A-
Repayment Terms	◯ -Select- ◯ A+ ◯ A ◯ A-/B+ ◯ B ◯ B-/C+ ◯ C ◯ C-/D+ ◯ D ◯ F ◯ -N/A-

Do you have any comments on Ex-Im Bank's programs for large aircraft, project finance, co-financing or foreign currency guarantees as compared to those of other ECAs? Do you have any comments on the support Ex-Im Bank offers for services exports as compared to that offered by other ECAs? What programs or performance, if changed, would impact your competitiveness? Please be as specific as possible.

+	Positive	Philosophy, policy or program has a positive impact on Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness (moves Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness grade up one notch)
*	Neutral	Philosophy, policy or program has a neutral impact on Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness (no impact on Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness grade)
-	Negative	Philosophy, policy or program has a negative impact on Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness (moves Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness grade down one notch)

Economic Philosophy

Tied Aid
- ○ -Please Select-
- ○ Positive
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Negative

Market Window
- ○ -Please Select-
- ○ Positive
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Negative

Do you have any comments on Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness with regard to tied aid or market windows? For example, have you seen competition supported by market windows or tied aid financing? Please be as specific as possible. You may also provide case specific data in Part 4.

Public Policies

Economic Impact
- ○ -Please Select-
- ○ Positive
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Negative

PR 17/Shipping
- ○ -Please Select-
- ○ Positive
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Negative

Foreign Content
- ○ -Please Select-
- ○ Positive
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Negative

Environment
- ○ -Please Select-
- ○ Positive
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Negative

Local costs
- ○ -Please Select-
- ○ Positive
- ○ Neutral
- ○ Negative

Do you have any comments on Ex-Im Bank's policies as they compare with other ECAs concerning economic impact, foreign content, local costs, shipping or the environment? Where other ECAs do not have a comparable public policy, such as economic impact and shipping, do you have comments on the impact of these public policies to Ex-Im Bank's competitiveness? For example, what public policies, if changed, would impact your competitiveness? Please be as specific as possible.

COMPETITIVENESS WEIGHTING

Now that you have graded Ex-Im Bank in several areas, please weight the overall importance of each of the four broad categories listed above to Ex-Im Bank's overall competitiveness. Please ensure that the sum of your weights equals 100%.

Core Business Policies and Practices	
Major Programs and Performance	
Economic Philosophy	
Public Policies	
Total %	

PART 4 - EXIM BANK PROJECTS

This template is provided as an opportunity for you to flesh out some of the grades that you gave in Part 3 by detailing any adverse impacts of Ex-Im Bank program features in specific transactions.

	Cost/ Policy/ Program	ECA	Market	Project Description	Describe the competition you faced and the effect it had on your business (e.g. forced to change sourcing, lost jobs, lower exports) If possible, please quantify.
Ex.	Cover	EDC	Iran	Power Plant	As a result of Ex-Im Bank's lack of cover for Iran, we were forced to source from outside the U.S. This resulted in a loss of over $100 million in U.S. Export Sales.
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

PART 5 -GENERAL COMMENTS

This space is provided for you to express your views on the general competitive environment, trends of specific competitors, etc. You may also use this space to comment on aspects of Ex-Im Bank programs, particularly those not addressed in the above questions.

[FR Doc. 04–6990 Filed 3–30–04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6690–01–C

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreements Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreements under the Shipping Act of 1984. Interested parties can review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Room 940. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

Agreement No.: 010099–040.

Title: International Council of Containership Operators.

Parties: A.P. Moller-Maersk Sealand; ANL Limited; American President Lines, Ltd.; APL Co. PTE Ltd.; Atlantic Container Line AB; Australia-New Zealand Direct Line; Canada Maritime Limited; Cast Line Limited; CMA CGM, S.A.; Companhia Libra de Navegacao; Compania Sud-Americana de Vapores S.A.; Contship Containerlines; Cosco