Comments Specific to Puerto Rico

Comments: HUD should not use multiple non-contiguous geographical areas as an FMR Area nor apply a single FMR to non-adjacent geographical areas. HUD’s use of non-contiguous county equivalents (municipios) in a metropolitan area does not conform to the adjacency standard governing the designation of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas.

HUD Response: The county removed from the Barranquitas Aibonito-Quebradillas FMR area was not removed because it is not a contiguous area, it was removed because OMB removed it from this metropolitan area. OMB kept the remaining non-contiguous county (municipio), Maunabo, in the metropolitan area, and did not follow the adjacency criteria for this metropolitan area. Both counties (municipios) have been in the metro area at least as far back as 2006. Functionally, removing Maunabo Municipio from the current FMR area will not change the effective FMR for the municipio as there is insufficient data to calculate a stand-alone FMR for the municipio and the state non-metropolitan minimum would still be used.

Comments: The use of the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) heat use index as a proxy to adjust the “Rent of primary residence” statistic to remove the influence of utilities has a depressing effect in a tropical area.

HUD Response: HUD’s longstanding use of the CES heat use index helps HUD estimate the portion of gross rent attributable to shelter cost and the portion attributable to utility costs. The commenter suggests that HUD’s methodology has the effect of lowering FMRs in tropical areas. However, given recent economic trends, increasing the influence of utility costs in the calculation of gross rents in Puerto Rico at this time would further depress rents, not raise them. More fundamentally, HUD’s use of the heat use index to “remove” the influence of utilities from the “rent of primary residence component” of gross rents is necessary because the rent of primary residence index captures some utility costs for units where utilities are included in the rental payment. Therefore, HUD must determine how much utility costs are embedded in the rent of primary residence so as to not double count the influence of utility costs changes when constructing a gross rent inflation factor.

To summarize how the CES heat use index is used in the calculation of FMRs: FMRs are gross rent estimates. Gross rents include the cost of the shelter plus the cost of the necessary utilities for the dwelling unit. In order to produce an FMR that comports with the statutory requirements of calculating the FMRs “based on the most recent available data trended so the rentals will be current for the year to which they apply,” HUD uses data from the American Community Survey on gross rents paid, updated by the change in gross rents measured through the CPI and trended using a national forecast of expected growth in gross rents. In order to calculate a gross rent increase factor using CPI data, HUD must determine how to combine the CPI’s measurement of the “rent of primary residence” and the “fuels and utilities” component of Housing. This step is complicated by the fact that some of the rents reported in the survey used to generate the CPI data for “rent of primary residence” already include utility costs. To cleanly separate the two components of “rents” and “utilities,” it is necessary to factor out any utility costs reported as rents. HUD uses the CES heat use index to estimate this amount.

Several years ago, HUD began using CPI “rent” and “utilities” components measured solely for Puerto Rico to calculate Puerto Rico’s gross rent increase factor. However, because no local measure is known to exist that could serve as the equivalent of the CES heat use index, HUD uses the South Census Region CES information as a proxy in Puerto Rico. For the relevant time period (2014 to 2015), the “rent of primary residence” statistic measured across all of Puerto Rico increased by 0.47 percent while the “fuels and utilities” component of housing declined by 14.75 percent. Given the large decrease in fuels and utilities measured in Puerto Rico, every combination of the two CPI components to obtain a measurement of the change in gross rents where the weight on the “rent of primary residence” component is 95 percent or less for Puerto Rico yields an overall negative CPI update factor. Therefore, as stated above, increasing the influence of utility costs in the calculation of gross rents in Puerto Rico in 2017 would further depress rents, not raise them.

III. Environmental Impact

This Notice makes changes in FMRs for two FMR areas and does not constitute a development decision affecting the physical condition of specific project areas or building sites. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6), this Notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).
I. Abstract
The Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42) (Act) prohibits the importation of any animal deemed to be and prescribed by regulation to be injurious to: • Human beings; • The interests of agriculture, horticulture, and forestry; or • Wildlife or the wildlife resources of the United States.

The Department of the Interior is charged with implementation and enforcement of this Act. The 50 CFR 16.13 regulations allow for the importation of dead uneviscerated salmonids (family Salmonidae), live salmonids, live fertilized eggs, or gametes of salmonid fish into the United States. To effectively carry out our responsibilities and protect the aquatic resources of the United States, it is necessary to collect information regarding the source, destination, and health status of salmonid fish and their reproductive parts. In order to evaluate import requests that contain this data, it is imperative that the information collected is accurate. Those individuals who provide the fish health data and sign the health certificate must demonstrate professional qualifications, and be approved as Title 50 Certifiers by the Fish and Wildlife Service through an application process.

We use three forms to collect this Title 50 Certifier application information:
(1) FWS Form 3–2273 (Title 50 Certifying Official Form). New applicants and those seeking recertification as a title 50 certifying official provide information so that we can assess their qualifications.
(2) FWS Form 3–2274 (U.S. Title 50 Certification Form). Certifying officials use this form to affirm the health status of the fish or fish reproductive products to be imported.
(3) FWS Form 3–2275 (Title 50 Importation Request Form). We use the information on this form to ensure the safety of the shipment and to track and control importations.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1018–0078.
Title: Injurious Wildlife; Importation Certification for Live Fish and Fish Eggs (50 CFR 16.13).

Service Form Number(s): FWS Forms 3–2273, 3–2274, and 3–2275.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Description of Respondents: Aquatic animal health professionals seeking to be certified title 50 inspectors; certified title 50 inspectors who have performed health certifications on live salmonids; and any entity wishing to import live salmonids or salmonid reproductive products into the United States.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.
Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

III. Comments
On December 19, 2016, we published in the Federal Register (81 FR 91944) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on February 17, 2017. We received one formal comment in response to that notice. That comment was critical of the 50 CFR 16.13 regulations generally, suggesting that no salmonid fishes be imported into the United States and that we utilize only domestic salmonids for propagation and aquaculture purposes. Although we allow importation of salmonids and their reproductive parts, we regulate their importation because they may carry harmful pathogens. The Service, however, agrees that the further development of a domestic salmonid fish trade could lessen the demand for imported fishes.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:
• Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
• The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
• 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 respondents.

Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Authority
The authorities for this action are the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42; Act), and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).
INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701–TA–557 and 731–TA–1312 (Final)]

Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip From China; Determinations

On the basis of the record \(^1\) developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission ("Commission") determines, pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 ("the Act"), that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports of stainless steel sheet and strip from China, provided for in subheadings 7219.13.00, 7219.14.00, 7219.23.00, 7219.24.00, 7219.32.00, 7219.33.00, 7219.34.00, 7219.35.00, 7219.90.00, 7220.12.10, 7220.12.50, 7220.20.10, 7220.20.60, 7220.20.70, 7220.20.80, 7220.20.90, and 7220.90.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that have been found by the Department of Commerce ("Commerce") to be sold in the United States at less than fair value ("LTFV"), the Department of Commerce by AK Steel Corp., West Chicago, Illinois. The American Stainless, Inc., Ghent, Kentucky; Outokumpu Stainless USA, LLC, Bannockburn, Illinois. The final phase of the investigations was scheduled by the Commission following notification of preliminary determinations by Commerce that imports of stainless steel sheet and strip from China were subsidized within the meaning of section 735(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1671b(b)) and sold at LTFV within the meaning of 733(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673(b)). Notice of the scheduling of the final phase of the Commission’s investigations and of a public hearing to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, and by publishing the notice in the Federal Register on October 6, 2016 (81 FR 69548). The hearing was held in Washington, DC, on January 31, 2017, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission made these determinations pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)). It completed and filed its determinations in these reviews on March 27, 2017. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 4677 (March 2017), entitled Certain Aluminum Extrusions from China: Investigation Nos. 701–TA–475 and 731–TA–1177 (Review).

By order of the Commission.
Issued: March 24, 2017.
Lisa R. Barton,
Secretary to the Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Justice Statistics

[OMB Number 1121–0314]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension Without Change, of a Previously Approved Collection; Firearm Inquiry Statistics (FIST) Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice

ACTION: 30-day notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This proposed information collection was previously published in the Federal Register at 82 FR 8212 on January 24, 2017, allowing for a 60 day comment period. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 30 days until May 1, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have additional comments

\(^1\) The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).