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Docket: FSIS-2025-0015

Notice of Request to Renew an Approved Information Collection: Import Inspection Application and Application for the Return of Exported Products to the United States

Comment On: FSIS-2025-0015-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Import Inspection Application and Application for the Return of Exported Products to the United States

Document: FSIS-2025-0015-0002

Comment from Anonymous

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

Notice Title:

Notice of Request To Renew an Approved Information Collection: Import Inspection Application and Application for the Return of Exported Products to the United States

Federal Register Citation: 90 FR 29526

Document Number: 2025-12498

Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture – Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

Date Submitted: August 5, 2025

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in reference to the Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) notice of intent to renew an approved information collection related to import inspection and product return applications. While the notice focuses on logistical and regulatory efficiency, I urge FSIS to consider integrating optional or supplemental climate-related data—particularly related to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions—in the revised collection framework.

Why this matters:

Emissions Embedded in International Supply Chains: Import and re-import activities involve global transportation networks, including air freight, ocean shipping, and refrigerated trucking. These are major sources of CO₂ emissions. Without capturing emissions or fuel use data, the climate impact of import-heavy meat and food systems remains invisible in USDA oversight.

Growing Stakeholder Demand for Transparency: Both U.S. consumers and international trading partners are increasingly attentive to the climate footprint of food systems. Even voluntary or pilot reporting initiatives on emissions intensity could help align FSIS processes with modern expectations.

Strategic Policy Alignment: Even though Executive Orders 13990 and 14008 have been rescinded, the importance of quantifying the climate impact of federal activities remains clear. Incorporating even basic indicators—such as shipment distances, refrigeration requirements, or mode of transport—would lay the groundwork for informed decision-making in future trade, food safety, and sustainability policies.

Climate-Resilient Food Regulation: Understanding how emissions flow through regulatory systems helps ensure that programs like import inspection evolve toward more resilient, lower-carbon operations, especially as climate-related disruptions to agriculture and logistics increase.

Recommendation:

As this information collection is renewed, FSIS should consider working with sister agencies (e.g., USDA Climate Hubs or Office of the Chief Economist) to design a framework that includes optional climate metrics, emission intensity tracking, or carbon-relevant disclosures for import activities. Doing so will strengthen long-term regulatory insight and public confidence.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen
Submitted Anonymously
Date: August 5, 2025