SUMMARY:
The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend its regulations to define yak and include it among “exotic animals” eligible for voluntary inspection. This proposed change responds to a petition for rulemaking. It would officially allow yak products to be voluntarily inspected by FSIS while FSIS went through rulemaking to add yak to the list of exotic animals eligible for voluntary inspection (https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/aa5f69d7-ddc6-44be-9f3b-bc9489cf3d38/IYAK-FSIS-response-120314.pdf?MOD=AJPERES) and stated that it would continue to inspect yak. Furthermore, the petitioner argued that withdrawing voluntary inspection services could significantly harm the yak industry. On November 21, 2014, IYAK submitted additional supporting data. IYAK had surveyed United States yak producers and found that continued FSIS inspection of yak meat is critical to the industry as a whole. After reviewing the petition and supporting data, FSIS decided to grant the petition and stated that it would continue to voluntarily inspect yak while FSIS went through rulemaking to add yak to the list of exotic animals eligible for voluntary inspection (https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/aa5f69d7-ddc6-44be-9f3b-bc9489cf3d38/IYAK-FSIS-response-120314.pdf?MOD=AJPERES and https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/c109452f-4497-4144-815e-6a382b94a113/FSIS-Final-Response-IYAK-080315.pdf?MOD=AJPERES). At the time, FSIS was unable to predict when it would initiate rulemaking.

Proposed Rule
FSIS is now proposing to amend 9 CFR part 352 to define yak and to add it to the list of exotic animals eligible for voluntary inspection. Under this proposed rule, yak would be defined as a long-haired bovid animal originally found throughout the Himalaya region of southern Central Asia and the Tibetan Plateau. As is noted above, FSIS is currently inspecting yak slaughter and processing under voluntary inspection services. Yak inspection is similar to that of other Bovidae, including cattle.

Request for Public Comment
Over the years, FSIS has received inquiries about its voluntary inspection program from various animal producers.
and growers. Because of interest from these stakeholders, FSIS is requesting comments as to whether the regulations should be amended to list as eligible for voluntary inspection all farm-raised species in the biological families Cervidae (e.g., moose, all deer and elk), all Bovidae not currently subject to mandatory inspection (e.g., water buffalo and impalas), and Camelidae (e.g., camel, llama, and alpaca).

FSIS provides voluntary inspection of some species in the biological families Bovidae and Cervidae under the AMA. Currently, all "exotic animals," as defined in the regulations, fall under these two families. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently has jurisdiction over the slaughter and processing of species of the biological family Camelidae, as do some state or local agencies. FSIS does not provide voluntary inspection for any of these species but is requesting comment on this issue because there has been stakeholder interest in FSIS expanding its services to include Camelidae. Based on interest from stakeholders, FSIS also requests comment as to whether any species in these families, if not currently subject to mandatory inspection, should be. As discussed above, FSIS already requires the inspection of some species of the biological family Bovidae under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA; 21 U.S.C. 601(w)). These species include cattle, sheep, and goats.

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act

Executive Orders (E.O.s) 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). E.O. 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting regulatory flexibility. The proposed rule has been designated as a "non-significant" regulatory action under section 3(f) of E.O. 12866. Accordingly, the rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under E.O. 12866.

Expected Costs of the Proposed Rule

If this rule is finalized, FSIS does not expect any additional industry or Agency costs because, although yak is not currently listed as an "exotic animal" eligible for voluntary inspection, FSIS has been inspecting yak under the voluntary inspection program for many years.

Expected Benefits of the Proposed Rule

In 2014, IYAK conducted a National Yak Industry Survey to support its petition requesting that FSIS amend 9 CFR 352.1(k) to include Yak under the definition of an "exotic animal." According to IYAK’s survey, FSIS voluntarily inspected 109 yaks from 22 establishments in 2014. The IYAK survey also stated that there were 33 total establishments slaughtering yak in 2014. From 2014 to November 8, 2019, 22 unique establishments submitted a total of 70 yak product labels to the FSIS Labeling and Program Delivery Staff (LPDS) for approval. These establishments would benefit from being able to continue to use their labels with FSIS’s voluntary mark of inspection if this proposed rule is finalized. According to the 2014 IYAK survey, 90 percent of the establishments surveyed noted that USDA inspection is critical to the yak industry. Amending 9 CFR 352.1 to list yak as an "exotic animal" eligible for FSIS’s voluntary inspection service would avoid disruption to the yak industry and the possible economic harm to producers if FSIS stopped voluntarily inspecting yak.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Assessment

The FSIS Administrator has made a preliminary determination that this proposed rule would have a significant, but positive, economic impact on a substantial number of small yak entities, as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). This proposed rule would allow FSIS to continue to voluntarily inspect yak and there would be no increased costs to industry. About 14 percent of the establishments that submitted yak labels from 2014 to November 8, 2019 were classified as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) size small and 86 percent were HACCP size very small.3 The proposed rule would benefit small and very small establishments because it would continue to give these establishments access to the FSIS voluntary mark of inspection and access to buyers who look for that mark of inspection when making purchasing decisions.

Executive Order 13771

Consistent with E.O. 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 3, 2017), this proposed rule would expand marketing options for the Yak Industry. Therefore, if finalized as proposed, this rule is expected to be an E.O. 13771 deregulatory action.

Paperwork Reduction Act

There are no new paperwork or recordkeeping requirements associated with this proposed rule under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

Environmental Impact

Each USDA agency is required to comply with 7 CFR part 1b of the Departmental regulations, which supplements the National Environmental Policy Act regulations published by the Council on Environmental Quality. Under these regulations, actions of certain USDA agencies and agency units are categorically excluded from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) unless the agency head determines that an action may have a significant environmental effect (7 CFR 1b.4(b)). FSIS is among the agencies categorically excluded from the preparation of an EA or EIS (7 CFR 1b.4(b)(6)).

FSIS has determined that this proposed rule, which amends its regulations to define yak and include it among “exotic animals” eligible for voluntary inspection under 9 CFR part 352, would not create any extraordinary circumstances that would result in this normally excluded action having a significant individual or cumulative effect on the human environment. Therefore, this action is appropriately subject to the categorical exclusion from the preparation of an EA or EIS provided under 7 CFR 1b.4 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations.

E-Government Act

FSIS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are committed to achieving the purposes of the E-Government Act (44 U.S.C. 3601, et seq.) by, among other things, promoting the use of the internet and other information technologies and providing increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act at 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has determined that this proposed rule is
not a “major rule,” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this Federal Register publication on-line through the FSIS web page located at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register. FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Constituent Update is available on the FSIS web page. Through the web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email:


Fax: (202) 690–7442.

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 352

Exotic animals.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, FSIS is proposing to amend 9 CFR part 352 as follows:

PART 352—EXOTIC ANIMALS AND HORSES: VOLUNTARY INSPECTION

1. The authority citation for part 352 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622, 1624; 7 CFR 2.17(g) and (i), 2.53.

2. Amend § 352.1 by revising paragraph (k) and adding paragraph (bb) to read as follows:

(k) Exotic animal means any reindeer, elk, deer, antelope, water buffalo, bison, or yak.

(bb) Yak means a long-haired bovid animal originally found throughout the Himalaya region of southern Central Asia and the Tibetan Plateau.

Done at Washington, DC.

Paul Kiecker,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2020–11264 Filed 5–29–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–OM–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 431


FRN 1904–AC72

Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Illuminated Exit Signs


ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is initiating a data collection process through this request for information (RFI) to consider whether to amend DOE’s test procedure for illuminated exit signs. Specifically, DOE seeks data and information pertinent to whether amended test procedures would more accurately or fully comply with the requirement that the test procedure produces results that measure energy use during a representative average use cycle or period of use for the product without being unduly burdensome to conduct, or reduce testing burden. DOE welcomes written comments from the public on any subject within the scope of this document (including topics not raised in this RFI), as well as the submission of data and other relevant information.

DATES: Written comments and information are requested and will be accepted on or before July 16, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at https://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Alternatively, interested persons may submit comments, identified by docket number EERE–2019–BT–TP–0013, by any of the following methods:


2. Email: exsigns2019@ee.doe.gov. Include docket number EERE–2019–BT–TP–0013 in the subject line of the message.


Telephone: (202) 287–1445. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc (“CD”), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

No telefacsimilies (faxes) will be accepted. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on this process, see section III of this document.

Docket: The docket for this activity, which includes Federal Register notices, comments, and other supporting documents/materials, is available for review at https://www.regulations.gov. All documents in the docket are listed in the https://www.regulations.gov index. However, some documents listed in the index, such as those containing information that is exempt from public disclosure, may not be publicly available.

The docket web page can be found at https://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/standards.aspx?productid=13. The docket web page contains instructions on how to access