

USDA extends comment period for proposed adjustments to Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program user fees (USDA APHIS 6.24.2014)

1. Summary

Please be advised that on April 25, 2014, the US Dept. of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a Proposed Rule for the amendment of User Fee Regulations for Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) Services

Comments on the Proposed Rule were to be submitted to the docket on or before June 24, 2014. On that date, USDA APHIS granted a 30 day extension on the comment period. The new deadline for comments is now July 24, 2014.

The original Federal Register notice summary, including links to the Proposed Rule in its entirety, is provided immediately below. Again, note that the comment period deadline is now July 24, 2014.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 354

[Docket No. APHIS-2013-0021]
RIN 0579-AD77

User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We are proposing to amend the user fee regulations by adding new fee categories and adjusting current fees charged for certain agricultural quarantine and inspection services that are provided in connection with certain commercial vessels, commercial trucks, commercial railroad cars, commercial aircraft, and international passengers arriving at ports in the customs territory of the United States. We are also proposing to adjust or remove the fee caps associated with commercial trucks, commercial vessels, and commercial railcars. We have determined that revised user fee categories and revised user fees are necessary to recover the costs of the current level of activity, to account for actual and projected increases in the cost of doing business, and to more accurately align fees with the costs associated with each fee service.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before June 24, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0021>

Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2013-0021, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0021> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information concerning program operations, contact Mr. William E. Thomas, Senior Agriculturist, Office of the Deputy Administrator, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 130, Riverdale, MD 20737 1231; (301) 851-2306. For information concerning rate development, contact Mr. Michael Peranio, Chief, User Fees, Financial Services Branch, FMD, MRPBS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 55, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-2852.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-25/html/2014-09466.htm>

2. Link to PDF's of Proposed Rule - from Federal Register

4/25/14 USDA User fees for Agriculture quarantine & inspection services – Proposed Rule

http://www.maritimedelriv.com/Port_Security/USDA/files/FR_2014_04_25_09466.pdf

3. USDA APHIS Stakeholder Announcement – USDA proposes Adjustments to Agriculture Quarantined Inspection (AQI) Program User Fees

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/2014/04/pdf/AQI_fees.pdf

4. APHIS PPQ Factsheet April, 2014 – Q&A: AQI Program Cost & Fees

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/2014/faq_aqi_fees.pdf