



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2025-0538]

Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection;

Communicable Diseases in Horses

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the interstate movement of horses that have tested positive for equine infectious anemia and for approving laboratories to test for equine infectious anemia.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before [Insert date 60 days after date of publication in the *Federal Register*].

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

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Enter APHIS-2025-0538 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2025-0538, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., #AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1620 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 on the regulations for the interstate movement of horses that have tested positive for equine infectious anemia, contact Dr. Lisa Rochette, Director, Aquaculture, Swine, Equine, and Poultry, Strategy and Policy, VS, APHIS, 920 Campus Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, Office No. 336; phone (919) 855-7276; email: [lisa.t.rochette@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.t.rochette@usda.gov). For more information on the information collection reporting process, contact Ms. Sheniqua Harris, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851-2528 or email at [APHIS.PRA@usda.gov](mailto:APHIS.PRA@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Communicable Diseases in Horses.

*OMB Control Number:* 0579-0127.

*Type of Request:* Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

*Abstract:* Under the authority of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates the importation and interstate movement of animals and animal products, and conducts various other activities to protect the health of U.S. livestock and poultry.

Equine infectious anemia (EIA) is an infectious and potentially fatal viral disease of equines. There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease. It is often difficult to differentiate from other fever-producing diseases, including anthrax, influenza, and equine encephalitis.

The regulations in 9 CFR part 75 govern the interstate movement of equines that have tested positive to an official test for EIA (EIA reactors). Regulations at 9 CFR part 71 provide for the approval of laboratories, diagnostic facilities, and research facilities to test for EIA. Ensuring the testing of equines and the safe movement of equines testing positive for EIA requires the use of several information collection activities, including an EIA laboratory test

form, supplemental investigation if a horse tests positive for EIA, agreements, requests for hearing, and written notification of withdrawal of approval.

APHIS regulations also require laboratories conducting an official EIA test to be approved by the APHIS Administrator in consultation with the appropriate State animal health officials. Approval of a laboratory requires the collection of information, such as the name of the director, location, facilities, appropriate resources, and training and proficiency of employees. This information helps APHIS determine a laboratory's capacity to conduct accurate and reliable testing and to meet the requirements in the regulations. In addition, a laboratory must enter an agreement with APHIS, provide monthly reports, and undergo regular inspections to receive and maintain approval.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for an additional 3 years. APHIS has amended this information collection due to a decrease in the number of Respondents reporting; however, the number of Responses and Total Burden Hours reported for the collection have increased.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Estimate of burden:* The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .080 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Producers, veterinarians, State veterinarians, and laboratory directors.

*Estimated annual number of respondents:* 235,015.

*Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:* 5.

*Estimated annual number of responses:* 1,156,816.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 92,770 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

Michael Watson

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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