

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 20****RIN 1018-AB80****Migratory Bird Hunting: Amended Test Protocol for Nontoxic Shot Approval Procedures for Shot and Shot Coatings; Proposed Rule****AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed Rule; Extension of Comment Period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the extension of the comment period for the Service's January 26, 1996, Amended test protocol for nontoxic shot approval procedures Proposed Rule published in the Federal Register (61 FR 2470) from March 26, 1996, to May 10, 1996.

DATES: The comment period for the proposed framework will end on May 10, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms—634 ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Comments received will be available for public inspection during normal business hours in Room 634, Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul R. Schmidt, Office of Migratory Bird Management, (703) 358-1714, FAX (703) 358-2217.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service announced in the January 26, 1996, Federal Register the amended test protocol for nontoxic shot approval procedures for shot and shot coatings

for migratory bird hunting. The proposed protocol will update and amend the current nontoxic shot approval procedures by establishing a 3-tiered approval process. Shot will be considered at each tier with the testing becoming progressively more demanding. An environmentally benign shot could be granted approval at the first tier. This process is designed to include both candidate shot and shot coatings.

The comment period is being extended to incorporate views from all parties that have expressed an interest in reviewing the proposed rule.

Dated: April 15, 1996

George T. Frampton, Jr.

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

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