

proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the For Further Information Contact section of this notice.

DATES: Submit comments on or before February 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via E-mail to psilvey@msha.gov, along with an original printed copy. Ms. Silvey can be reached at (703) 235-1910 (voice) or (703) 235-5551 (facsimile).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George M. Fesak, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Information Resources, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 715, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Mr. Fesak can be reached at gfesak@msha.gov (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-8378 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 317(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. § 877(c), and 30 CFR § 75.1702 prohibits persons from smoking or carrying smoking materials underground or in places where there is a fire or explosion hazard. Under the Mine Act and § 75.1702, coal mine operators are required to develop programs to prevent persons from carrying smoking materials, matches, or lighters underground and to prevent smoking in hazardous areas, such as in or around oil houses, explosives magazines, etc. The Mine Act and the standard further require that the mine operator submit the program plan to MSHA for approval. The purpose of the program is to insure that a fire or explosion hazard does not occur.

II. Current Actions

It is necessary to continue this paperwork burden in order to ensure that mine operators continue to submit smoking materials search plans and that miners are continually protected from the hazards of igniting mine explosions or mine fires by the open flames of cigarette lighters and matches and smoldering tobacco products. Smoking continues to be a prevalent habit of underground coal miners when off work when engaged in surface activities. Both the accidental or intentional carrying of smoking materials underground and the deliberate disregard for the safety of other miners can only be mitigated by the systematic programs to prohibit the carrying and use of smoking materials underground as required by 30 CFR § 75.1702.

Type of Review: Extension (without change).

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Program to Prevent Smoking in Hazardous Areas.

OMB Number: 1219-0041.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit institutions.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc: 30 CFR 75.1702.

Total Respondents: 328.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Responses: 328.

Average Time per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 164.

Estimated Total Burden Cost: \$6,888.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-33677 Filed 12-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. ICR-97-49]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Portable Fire Extinguishers—Annual Maintenance Certification Record

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection requirements contained in 29 CFR 1910.157(e)(3). The Agency is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments are to be submitted to the Docket Office, Docket

No. ICR-97-49, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-7894. Written comments limited to 10 pages or less in length may also be transmitted by facsimile to (202) 219-5046.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theda Kenney, Directorate of Safety Standards Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3605, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone: (202) 219-8061. Copies of the referenced information collection request are available for inspection and copying in the Docket Office and will be mailed to persons who request copies by telephoning Theda Kennedy at (202) 219-8061, ext. 100, or Barbara Bielaski at (202) 219-8076, ext. 142. For electronic copies of the Information Collection Request on the certification requirements for Portable Fire Extinguishers, contact OSHA's WebPage on the Internet at <http://www.osha.gov/> and click on "standards."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (the Act) authorizes the promulgation of such health and safety standards as are necessary or appropriate to provide safe or healthful employment and places of employment. The statute specifically authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of the Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents.

The inspection certification record required in 29 CFR 1910.157(e)(3) is necessary to assure compliance with the inspection requirements for portable fire extinguishers. They are intended to assure that portable fire extinguishers have an annual maintenance check.

II. Current Actions

This notice requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the annual inspection certification requirements contained in 29 CFR 1910.157(e)(3)—Portable Fire Extinguishers.

Type of Review: Existing Collection in Use Without an OMB Control Number.

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Portable Fire Extinguishers (29 CFR 1910.157(e)(3))—Annual Maintenance Certification Record.

OMB Number: 1218-.

Agency Number: Docket Number ICR-97-49.

Affected Public: State or local governments; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 127,500.

Frequency: Annually.

Average Time per Response: 30 minutes (0.50 hour).

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 63,750.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup

Costs: \$9,180,000.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 19th day of December 1997.

John F. Martonik,

Acting Director, Directorate of Safety Standards Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-33708 Filed 12-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health: Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor.

ACTION: Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health; notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health, (MACOSH), established under section 7(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 656), to advise the Secretary of Labor on matters relating to occupational safety and health programs, policies, and standards in the maritime industries of the United States, is holding a meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 28 and 29, 1998, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Ramada Hotel, Old Town, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Any written comments in response to this notice should be sent to the following address: OSHA, Office of Maritime Standards, Room N-3621, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. Phone (202) 219-7234, fax (202) 219-7477.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Larry Liberatore, Office of Maritime Standards, OSHA, (202) 219-7234, extension 141.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this meeting, the Committee will (1) advise

OSHA on the development of an Operating Plan to meet its Strategic Goal of achieving a 15% reduction in injuries and illnesses in the Shipyard Industry; (2) explore innovative outreach and training partnerships; (3) discuss maritime applications of cooperative compliance programs; and (4) receive an update of major Fiscal Year 98 OSHA initiatives.

All interested persons are invited to attend the public meetings of MACOSH, including this one at the time and place indicated above. Seating will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals with disabilities wishing to attend should contact Theda Kenney at 202-219-8061, no later than January 15, 1998, to obtain appropriate accommodations.

MACOSH will meet as a whole and also in small focus groups. Written data, views or comments for consideration by the Committee may be submitted, preferably with 20 copies, to Larry Liberatore at the address provided above. Any such submissions received prior to the meeting will be provided to the members of the Committee and will be included in the record of the meeting. Members of the general public may request an opportunity to make oral presentations at the meeting. Oral presentations will be limited to statements of fact and views, and will not include any questioning of the committee members or other participants unless these questions have been specifically approved by the chairperson. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation should notify Larry Liberatore before the meeting. The request should state the amount of time desired, the capacity in which the person will appear and a brief outline of the content of the presentation. Persons who request the opportunity to address the Advisory Committee may be allowed to speak, as time permits, at the discretion of the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Authority: This notice is issued under the authority of section 6(b)(1) and 7(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (19 U.S.C. 655,666), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2), and 29 CFR Part 1912.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 17th day of December 1997.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 97-33678 Filed 12-24-97; 8:45 am]

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