

200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., 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, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone: (202) 219-8061. A copy of the referenced information collection request is available for inspection and copying in the Docket Office and will be mailed to persons who request copies by telephoning Theda Kenney at (202) 219-8061, extension 100, or Barbara Bielaski at (202) 219-8076, extension 142. For electronic copies of the Information Collection Request on Walking-Working Surfaces (29 CFR 1910.21-30), contact OSHA's WebPage on the Internet at <http://www.osha-slc.gov/>.

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 information collected is used by employers and employees to be aware of load limits of the floors of newly constructed buildings, the location of permanent aisles and passageways in these buildings, and defective portable metal ladders. Once the floor loading signs are posted, there is no need to change them unless structural conditions change or if the signs become lost, removed, or defaced. Once a portable metal ladder is marked as defective, it must be removed from service and either repaired or destroyed. Repaired portable metal ladders may be returned to service and the markings removed. The tags or signs used to mark the defective ladders may be used over and over again.

Further, a copy of the drawings and specifications of an outrigger scaffold not constructed and erected in accordance with table D-16 of the standard and designed by a licensed professional engineer must be maintained by the employer. The

drawings and specifications are used by the employer and OSHA compliance officers to show the sizes and spacing of members.

II. Current Actions

This notice requests public comment on OSHA's burden hour estimates prior to OSHA seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements contained in the Walking-Working Surfaces standards (29 CFR 1910.21-30).

Type of Review: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

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

Title: Walking-Working surfaces (29 CFR 1910.21-30).

OMB Number: 1218-0199.

Agency Number: Docket Number ICR-98-26.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal government; State, local or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 60,500.

Frequency: Initially, On Occasion.

Average Time per Response: Varies from 0.5 to 2 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 33,837.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: 0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the information collection request. The comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 22nd day of June 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 98-17102 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

[OSHA Docket Number H-122]

Meeting on Risk Assessment Methodology for Occupational Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is sponsoring a scientific workshop to

evaluate risk assessment methodology for developing estimates of risk due to occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). This workshop will be organized and hosted by the Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health. The workshop proceedings will be published by a peer reviewed journal, to be selected by Johns Hopkins.

DATES: The workshop will be held on July 9 and 10, 1998, beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day and ending at approximately 5:30 p.m. Applications to attend the workshop must be submitted by July 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the Admiral Fell Inn, 888 South Broadway, Baltimore, Maryland 21231; phone: 410-522-7377. Send applications to attend the workshop and requests by individuals with disabilities for special accommodations to Ms. Charlotte Gerczak, Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health, 615 North Wolfe Street, Suite W6041, Baltimore, Maryland 21205-2179; phone: 410-614-0903.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Charlotte Gerczak.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On April 5, 1994, OSHA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Indoor Air Quality (59 FR 15968). The ETS provisions of the proposed rule were supported by a preliminary finding of significant risk for lung cancer and heart disease due to workplace exposure to ETS.

This workshop will attempt to resolve issues raised in the public record pertaining to OSHA's ETS quantitative risk assessment (e.g., data sources, analytical methodology, dose-response risk models) and further scientific knowledge in this area. OSHA needs additional information on these issues to develop a risk assessment upon which a final rule can be based. To address OSHA's concerns, Johns Hopkins has assembled a group of experts to identify issues and discuss appropriate quantitative methodologies for estimating occupational risks from ETS exposures in the workplace. It is the intent of OSHA that the workshop results will be published in a peer reviewed journal.

Public Attendance

Interested persons are invited to attend the ETS risk assessment workshop. Because of the limited amount of seating available, interested persons are encouraged to contact Johns

Hopkins as soon as possible. If there are more requests to attend than space available, Johns Hopkins will give preference to scientists with expertise in risk assessment issues. No organization will be permitted more than one observer unless there is space available after all admissions requests are filled. Admittance to the workshop will be limited to those duly registered.

The Workshop

The workshop participants will consist of experts in the fields of risk assessment, epidemiology, and mathematical modeling. The panel discussions will be chaired by Jonathan M. Samet, M.D., Chairman, Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health. The workshop participants have been chosen for their scientific expertise and experience in this area. This workshop is scientific in nature. The public is invited to observe the proceedings, but participation in the discussion is limited to workshop participants.

Workshop Objectives

Under the direction of Jonathan Samet, M.D., the workshop participants will address key issues related to ETS risk assessment methodology. Specifically, the participants will:

1. Consider various health end points to be included in the ETS risk assessment and make recommendations with regard to these specific health end points.
2. Consider all available studies addressing the recommended health end points and evaluate the quality of data for estimating occupational risk.
3. Review and evaluate available mathematical models for estimating occupational risk due to ETS exposure.
4. Examine properties of dose-response risk models and characterize the models with regard to validity and uncertainty and their applicability to estimating occupational risk attributable to ETS exposure in the workplace.

Authority and Signature

This document was prepared under the direction of Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. It is issued pursuant to section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1594, 29 U.S.C. 655).

Signed at Washington, DC this 22nd of June 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 98-16949 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

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 other federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and 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 the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the collection of information included in the procedure for applications for exemption from the prohibited transaction provisions of section 408(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) (29 CFR § 2570.30, *et seq.*). The Department is particularly interested in comments which evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the basis for any suggested alternative burden estimates. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before August 25, 1998.

The Department of Labor 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;
- 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 submission of responses.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments regarding the collection of information of any or all of the Agencies. Send comments to Mr. Gerald B. Lindrew, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-5647, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-4782 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 408(a) of ERISA provides that the Secretary may grant exemptions from the prohibited transaction provisions of sections 406 and 407(a) of ERISA and directs the Secretary to establish an exemption procedure with respect to such provisions. In this regard, the Department previously issued a regulation which describes the procedures that must be followed in filing for such exemptions (29 CFR 2570.30, *et seq.*). Under section 408(a) of ERISA, in order for the Secretary to grant an exemption, it must be determined that such exemption is "(1) administratively feasible; (2) in the interests of the plan and its participants and beneficiaries; and (3) protective of the rights of participants and beneficiaries." In order to make such determination, the Department requires full information regarding all aspects of the transaction, including the specific circumstances surrounding the transaction, and the parties and assets involved. Thus, sections 2570.34 and 2570.35 of the exemption procedures regulation lists the information that must be supplied by the applicant. This information includes: identifying information (name, type of plan, EIN number, etc.); an estimate of the number of plan participants; a detailed description of the transaction and the parties for which an exemption is