

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.

In 29 CFR 1910.146, Permit-Required Confined Spaces, employers are required to perform an assessment of the workplace to determine the presence of permit-required confined spaces (permit spaces). If permit spaces are present, the employer must develop and implement a written program that prevents inadvertent entry into these spaces, and details safe and effective means of entering and exiting these spaces.

Employees risk exposure to such hazards as toxic and explosive atmospheres, oxygen deficient atmospheres, electric and mechanical energy, inwardly sloping walls and immersion in flowing material. In order to protect entrants from these hazards, a pre-entry checklist or permit must be completed that certifies that all procedures necessary to protect entrants from hazards contained within the permit space, and to provide for the entrants' safe retrieval in the event of an emergency, have been taken.

Employees who must enter permit spaces, or act as attendants or rescuers, must be trained and the employer must certify that the training was completed.

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 standard on Permit-Required Confined Spaces (29 CFR 1910.146).

Type of Review: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

Agency: Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Permit-Required Confined Spaces (29 CFR 1910.146).

OMB Number: 1218-0203.

Agency Number: Docket No. ICR 99-1.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Federal Government; State, local or tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 238,853.

Frequency: Varies (On occasion, daily, annually).

Average Time per Response: Varies, from 5 minutes (.08 hr.) to 16 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1,634,663.

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, DC, this 12th day of April 1999.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 99-9579 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health; Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH) will meet May 6 and 7, 1999, at the Frances Perkins Department of Labor Building, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. This meeting is open to the public.

TIMES, DATES, ROOMS: ACCSH will meet from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 6 and from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7 in rooms N-4437 A, B, C and D.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information contact Theresa Berry, Office of Public Affairs, Room N-3647, telephone (202) 693-1999 at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20210.

An official record of the meeting will be available for public inspection at the OSHA Docket Office, Room N-2625, telephone 202-693-2350. All ACCSH meetings and those of its work groups are open to the public. Individuals with disabilities needing accommodation should contact Theresa Berry no later than April 30, 1999, at the above address. ACCSH was established under section 107(e)(1) of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 333) and section 7(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 656).

The agenda items include:

- Remarks by the Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Charles N. Jeffress.
- ACCSH Work Group Updates, including:

- Data Collection,
- Musculoskeletal Disorders,
- Multi-Employer Citation Policy,
- OSHA Form 170,
- Fall Protection, and
- Subpart N, Cranes.
- Reports on construction standards development,
- Policy updates, and
- Special presentations including:
- Crane Operator Certification, and
- Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP)—Short Term Construction Demonstration Programs.

The following ACCSH Work Groups are scheduled to meet in the Francis Perkins Building:

Data Collection—1-5 p.m., Tuesday, May 4, in room N-3437 A.

OSHA Form 170—9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, in room N-3437 B.

Musculoskeletal Disorders—9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, in room N-4437 D.

Fall Protection—1 p.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, in room N-3437 D.

Multi-Employer Citation Policy—9 a.m. to Noon, Wednesday, May 5, in room N-3437 D.

Cranes, Subpart N—1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, in room N-5437 D. Other workgroups may meet after the adjournment of the ACCSH meeting on May 7, 1999.

Interested persons may submit written data, view or comments, preferably with 20 copies, to Theresa Berry, at the address above. Those submissions received prior to the meeting will be provided to ACCSH and will be included in the record of the meeting.

Interested persons may also request to make an oral presentation by notifying Theresa Berry before the meeting. The request must state the amount of time desired, the interest that the person represents, a brief outline of the presentation. ACCSH may grant requests, as time permits, at the discretion of the Chair of ACCSH.

Signed at Washington, DC this 12th day of April, 1999.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 99-9581 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. NRTL-3-93]

Factory Mutual Research Corporation, Application for Expansion of Recognition

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the application of Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FMRC) for expansion of its recognition as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) under 29 CFR 1910.7, and presents the Agency's preliminary finding. This preliminary finding does not constitute an interim or temporary approval of this application.

DATES: Comments submitted by interested parties must be received no later than June 15, 1999.

ADDRESS: Send comments concerning this notice to: Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, NRTL Program, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N3653, Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernard Pasquet, Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, NRTL Program at the above address, or phone (202) 693-2110.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Notice of Application**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) hereby gives notice that Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FMRC) has applied for expansion of its current recognition as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). FMRC's expansion request covers the use of additional test standards. OSHA recognizes an organization as an NRTL, and processes applications related to such recognitions, following requirements in section 1910.7 of Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1910.7). Appendix A to this section requires that OSHA publish this public notice of the preliminary finding on an application.

FMRC's previous application as an NRTL covered its renewal of recognition as an NRTL (60 FR 16167, 3/29/95), which OSHA granted on August 16, 1995 (60 FR 42590).

The current addresses of the testing facilities (sites) that OSHA recognizes for FMRC are:

Factory Mutual Research Corporation,
1151 Boston-Providence Turnpike,
Norwood, Massachusetts 02062
Factory Mutual Research Corporation,
743 Reynolds Road, West Gloucester,
Rhode Island 02814

General Background on the Application

FMRC submitted a request, dated October 8, 1998 (see Exhibit 7A), to expand its recognition as an NRTL to include four (4) additional test standards. Then it submitted a request, dated November 18, 1998 (see Exhibit

7B), to expand its recognition for one more test standard. FMRC seeks recognition for testing and certification of products to demonstrate compliance to the following 5 test standards, and OSHA has determined the standards are appropriate, as prescribed by 29 CFR 1910.7(c). OSHA recognition of any NRTL for a particular test standard is limited to products for which OSHA standards require third party testing and certification before use in the workplace.

ANSI/UL 1950 Information
Technology Equipment Including
Electrical Business Equipment
FMRC 2000 Automatic Sprinklers for
Fire Protection
FMRC 2008 Early Suppression-Fast
Response (ESFR) Automatic
Sprinklers
FMRC 3260 Flame Radiation Detectors
for Automatic Fire Alarm Signaling
FMRC 3900 Less or nonflammable
Liquid-Insulated Transformers
The designations and titles of the above test standards were current at the time of the preparation of this notice.

Preliminary Finding on the Application

FMRC has submitted an acceptable request for expansion of its recognition as an NRTL. In connection with this request, OSHA did not perform an on-site review of FMRC's NRTL testing facilities. However, NRTL Program assessment staff reviewed information pertinent to the request and, in a memo dated February 10, 1999 (see Exhibit 8), recommended that FMRC's recognition be expanded to include the additional test standards listed above.

Following a review of the application file, the assessor's recommendation, and other pertinent documents, the NRTL Program staff has concluded that OSHA can grant, to the FMRC facilities listed above, the expansion of recognition to use the additional 5 test standards. The staff therefore recommended to the Assistant Secretary that the application be preliminarily approved.

Based upon the recommendation of the staff, the Assistant Secretary has made a preliminary finding that the Factory Mutual Research Corporation facilities listed above can meet the recognition requirements, as prescribed by 29 CFR 1910.7, for the expansion of recognition. This preliminary finding does not constitute an interim or temporary approval of the application.

OSHA welcomes public comments, in sufficient detail, as to whether FMRC has met the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.7 for expansion of its recognition as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory. Your comment should

consist of pertinent written documents and exhibits. To consider it, OSHA must receive the comment at the address provided above (see "ADDRESS"), no later than the last date for comments (see "DATES" above). You may obtain or review copies of FMRC's requests, the memo on the recommendation, and all submitted comments, as received, by contacting the Docket Office, Room N2625, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, at the above address. You should refer to Docket No. NRTL-3-93, the permanent record of public information on FMRC's recognition.

The NRTL Program staff will review all timely comments, and after resolution of issues raised by these comments, will recommend whether to grant FMRC's expansion request. The Assistant Secretary will make the final decision on granting the expansion and, in making this decision, may undertake other proceedings that are prescribed in Appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7. OSHA will publish a public notice of this final decision in the **Federal Register**.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 26th day of March, 1999.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-9577 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration****Working Group Studying Issues Surrounding the Trend in the Defined Benefit Plan Market With a Focus on Employer-Sponsored Hybrid Plans Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefits Plans; Notice of Meeting**

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 512 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. 1142, a public meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6, 1999, of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans Working Group assigned to study issues surrounding trends in the defined benefit market with a focus on employer-sponsored hybrid plans.

The purpose of the open meeting, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to approximately noon in Room N-3437 A-C, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, is for working group members to take testimony on the subject.