announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information-collection requirements found in certain sections of 29 CFR part 1926. This document provides the OMB approval numbers and expiration dates for these requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Martinez, Directorate of Policy, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N–3627, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–2444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a series of Federal Register notices, the Agency announced its requests to OMB to renew its current approvals for various information-collection (paperwork) requirements in its Construction standards. In these Federal Register announcements, the Agency provided 60-day comment periods for the public to respond to OSHA’s burden-hour and cost estimates.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), OMB renewed its approval for these information-collection requirements and assigned OMB control numbers to these requirements. The table below provides the following information for each of these OMB-approved requirements: The title of, and CFR reference to, the standard that contains the requirement and, in some cases, the title of the requirement; the Federal Register reference (date, volume, and leading page) to OSHA’s request for public comment on its burden-hour and cost estimates; the OMB control number; and the new expiration date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Federal Register reference</th>
<th>OMB control number</th>
<th>Expiration date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underground Transportation of Explosives—Certifying Inspections of Trucks (29 CFR 1926.903(e)).</td>
<td>65 FR 15650 03/23/2000</td>
<td>1218–0227</td>
<td>06/30/2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an Agency cannot conduct, sponsor, or require a response to a collection of information unless: The collection displays a valid OMB control number; and the Agency informs respondents that they are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority and Signature

Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506) and Secretary of Labor’s Order No. 3–2000 (65 FR 50017).

Signed at Washington, DC, on September 11th, 2000.

Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 00–23701 Filed 9–14–00; 8:45 am]
Under 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an Agency cannot conduct, sponsor, or require a response to a collection of information unless: The collection displays a valid OMB control number; and the Agency informs respondents that they are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority and Signature

Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506) and Secretary of Labor’s Order No. 3±2000 (65 FR 50017).

Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 00±23702 Filed 9±14±00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510±26±P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Office of Federal Procurement Policy

Cost Accounting Standards Board; Accounting for the Cost of Employee Stock Ownership Plans

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Cost Accounting Standards Board, invites public comments concerning a Staff Discussion Paper on accounting for the cost of employee stock ownership plans (ESOP) under government contracts.

DATES: Comments must be in writing and must be received by November 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Dr. Rein Abel, Director of Research, Cost Accounting Standards Board, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, 725 17th Street, NW, Room 9013, Washington, D.C. 20503. Attn: CASB Docket No. 00±03. The submission of public comments in writing, via letter, is requested, as receipt of a readable data file via Internet e-mail cannot be assured. To facilitate the CAS Board’s review of submitted comments, you may include with your written comments a three point five inch (3.5”) computer diskette copy of your comments and denote the word processing format used.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rein Abel, Director of Research, Cost Accounting Standards Board (telephone: 202-395±3254).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Regulatory Process

The Cost Accounting Standards Board’s rules, regulations and Standards are codified at 48 CFR Chapter 99. Section 26(g)[1] of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act, 41 U.S.C. 422(g), requires that the Board, prior to the establishment of any new or revised Cost Accounting Standard, complete a prescribed rulemaking process. The process generally consists of the following four steps:

1. Consult with interested persons concerning the advantages, disadvantages and improvements anticipated in the pricing and administration of Government contracts as a result of the adoption of a proposed Standard.


4. Promulgate a Final Rule. This proposal is step one of the four-step process.

B. Background and Summary

In response to the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) Board’s continuing research, a number of commenters have identified accounting for the cost of employee stock ownership plans under government contracts as an issue requiring Board consideration. The primary concern raised is the lack of guidance concerning this matter in applicable government contracting regulations, and the attempt by the contracting parties, in certain cases, to apply various provisions of the CAS to accounting for the costs of ESOPs, when such CAS provisions do not explicitly address or even mention ESOPs. More specifically, issues have arisen in which the accounting for the cost of ESOPs have caused substantial controversies.

This Staff Discussion Paper represents the results of research performed by the staff of the Cost Accounting Standards Board, and is issued by the Board in accordance with the requirements of 41 U.S.C. 422(g)(1)(A). The statements contained herein do not necessarily represent the position of the Cost Accounting Standards Board.

C. Public Comments

Interested persons are invited to participate by submitting data, views or arguments with respect to this Staff Discussion Paper. All comments must be in writing and submitted to the address indicated in the ADDRESSES section.

Nelson F. Gibbs, Executive Director, Cost Accounting Standards Board.

Cost Accounting Standards Board Staff Discussion Paper—Issues Relating to Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs)

The Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) Board is examining the accounting issues related to the measurement, assignment and allocation of costs associated with Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) to government contracts. This Staff Discussion Paper (SDP) is part of the Board’s deliberative process that may lead to a pronouncement by the Board on this topic. The purpose of this SDP is to solicit comments on the relevant issues.

Background

The initial purpose of ESOPs was to encourage employee stock ownership of American industry. Such encouragement was contained in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and corresponding changes to the Internal Revenue Code. Congress has also commented on ESOP