

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 Welding, Cutting and Brazing, contact OSHA's WebPage on the Internet at <http://www.osha.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.

In 29 CFR part 1910, Welding, Cutting and Brazing, the information to be collected is used by employers and employees whenever resistance welding is performed. The purpose of the information is to ensure that employers evaluate hazards associated with resistance welding and ensure that adequate measures are taken to make the process safe.

II. Current Actions

This notice requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the information collection requirement contained in the Welding, Cutting and Brazing standard.

Type of Review: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

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

Title: Welding, Cutting and Brazing (29 CFR part 1910).

OMB Number: 1218-0207.

Agency Number: Docket Number ICR-98-21.

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

Number of Respondents: 35,307.

Frequency: Annually.

Average Time per Response: 10 minutes (0.17 hr.).

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 6,002.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: 0.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 10th day of April 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-10286 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. ICR-98-20]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910.132)

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 the standard on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (29 CFR 1910.132). 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 June 19, 1998.

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

No. ICR-98-20, 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. 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 Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910.132), contact OSHA's WebPage on the Internet at <http://www.osha.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.

In 29 CFR 1910.132, Personal Protective Equipment, employers are required to perform a hazard assessment of the workplace and to certify that it has been performed. They are also required to certify that their employees have received, and understood, PPE training.

OSHA inspectors will require employers to provide them with access to information during Agency inspections. The documents, which can be written or computer generated, are needed to verify that employers are in compliance with the standard. Additionally, the documents may be used as a "grandfather" mechanism. That is, an employer can verify that an existing hazard assessment and/or training program already meets the standard. This will eliminate the need for an employer to reassess the workplace or retrain employees.

II. Current Actions

This notice requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements contained in the PPE standard.

Type of Review: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

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

Title: Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910.132).

OMB Number: 1218-0205.

Agency Number: Docket Number ICR-98-20.

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

Number of Respondents: 29,000,000.

Frequency: On occasion.

Average Time per Response: 1.5 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 21,140.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: \$0.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 10th day of April 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-10287 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Working Group Studying Pre-Retirement Distributions From ERISA Employer-Sponsored Pension 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 Tuesday, May 5, 1998 of the new Working Group of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans, which will study pre-retirement distributions, including in-service distributions and participant loans from ERISA employer-sponsored pension plans, known in the pension benefits community as "leakage."

The purpose of the open meeting, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to approximately noon on Room N-4437 C&D, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210, is

for Working Group members to establish the agenda and course of study for the upcoming Council year on the topic. The Working Group Chair Barbara A. Uberti, vice president of the Wilmington Trust Company in Wilmington, Del., and Vice Chair Michael R. Fanning, chief executive officer of the Central Pension Fund International Union of Operating Engineers and Participating Employers, Washington, DC, hope to begin hearing testimony on the topic at the first session.

Members of the public are encouraged to file a written statement pertaining to the topic by submitting 20 copies on or before May 1, 1998, to Sharon Morrissey, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Working Group should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8753. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, but an extended statement may be submitted for the record. Individuals with disabilities, who need special accommodations, should contact Sharon Morrissey by May 1, 1998, at the address indicated in this notice.

Organizations or individuals also may submit statements for the record without testifying. Twenty (20) copies of such statements should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Council at the above address. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before May 1.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 13th day of April, 1998.

Olena Berg,

Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-10282 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Working Group Studying Small Business: How To Enhance and Encourage the Establishment of Pension 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 Monday, May 4, 1998, of the

Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefits Plans' new Working Group being formed to study the obstacles to why small businesses are not establishing retirement vehicles for their employees when so many different savings arrangements have been developed and how to encourage these same businesses to establish such pension plans.

The session will take place in Room N-4437 C&D, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210. The purpose of the open meeting, which will run from 1 p.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m., is for Working Group members to begin organizing its study for the year and, it is hoped, to begin taking testimony on the topic. Named to head the Working Group are Council members, Dr. Thomas J. Mackell Jr., executive vice president of Simms Capital Management, Inc., of Greenwich, Conn. as chair and Eddie C. Brown, president, Brown Capital Management in Baltimore, Md. as vice chair.

Members of the public are encouraged to file a written statement pertaining to the topic by submitting 20 copies on or before May 1, 1998, to Sharon Morrissey, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Working Group should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8753. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, but an extended statement may be submitted for the record. Individuals with disabilities, who need special accommodations, should contact Sharon Morrissey by May 1, at the address indicated in this notice.

Organizations or individuals may also submit statements for the record without testifying. Twenty (20) copies of such statements should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Council at the above address. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before May 1.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 13th day of April, 1998.

Olena Berg,

Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-10283 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

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