

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Occupational Safety and Health Administration****[Docket No. ICR-1218-0075(2001)]****Standard on Fire Brigades; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's Approval of Information-Collection (Paperwork) Requirements****AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.**ACTION:** Notice of an opportunity for public comment.**SUMMARY:** OSHA solicits public comment concerning the proposed extension of the information-collection requirements contained in the Standard on Fire Brigades (29 CFR 1910.156).**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before November 13, 2001.**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to the Docket No. ICR-1218-0075(2001), OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210; telephone: (202) 693-2350. Commenters may transmit written comments of 10 pages or less by facsimile to: (202) 693-1648.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**Theda Kenney, Directorate of Safety Standards Programs, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3609, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210; telephone: (202) 693-2222. A copy of the Agency's Information-Collection Request (ICR) supporting the need for the information collections specified in the Standard on Fire Brigades is available for inspection and copying in the Docket Office, or by requesting a copy from Theda Kenney at (202) 693-2222 or Todd Owen at (202) 693-2444. For electronic copies of the ICR, contact OSHA on the Internet at <http://www.osha.gov> and select "Information Collection Requests."**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (i.e., employer) burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing information-collection requirements in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA-95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA's estimate of the information-collection burden is correct. The

Standard imposes the following paperwork requirements on each employer who establishes a fire brigade: Write an organizational statement; ascertain the fitness of employees with specific medical conditions to participate in fire-related operations; and provide appropriate training and information to fire-brigade members.

Although OSHA does not mandate that employers establish fire brigades, if they do so, they must comply with the provisions of the Standard. The provisions of the Standard, including the paperwork requirements, apply to fire brigades, industrial fire departments, and private or contract fire departments, but not to airport crash-rescue units or forest fire-fighting operations. Paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2), (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) contain the paperwork requirements of the Standard.

Under paragraph (b)(1) of the Standard, employers must develop and maintain an organizational statement that establishes the: Existence of a fire brigade; the basic organizational structure of the brigade; type, amount, and frequency of training provided to brigade members; expected number of members in the brigade; and functions that the brigade is to perform. This paragraph also specifies that the organizational statement must be available for review by employees, their designated representatives, and OSHA compliance officers. The organizational statement delineates the functions performed by the brigade members and, therefore, determines the level of training and type of personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for these members to perform their assigned functions safely. Making the statement available to employees, their designated representatives, and OSHA compliance officers ensures that the elements of the statement are consistent with the functions performed by the brigade members and the occupational hazards they experience, and that employers are providing training and PPE appropriate to these functions as hazards.

To permit an employee with known heart disease, epilepsy, or emphysema to participate in fire-brigade emergency activities, paragraph (b)(2) of the Standard requires employers to obtain a physician's certificate of the employee's fitness to do so. This provision provides employers with a direct and efficient means of ascertaining whether or not they can safely expose employees with these medical conditions to the hazards of fire-related operations.

Paragraph (c)(1) of the Standard requires employers to provide training and education for fire-brigade members

commensurate with the duties and functions they perform, with brigade leaders and training instructors receiving more comprehensive training and education than employers provide to the general membership. Under paragraph (c)(2) of the Standard, employers must conduct training and education frequently enough, but at least annually, to assure that brigade members are able to perform their assigned duties and functions satisfactorily and safely; employers must provide brigade members who perform interior structural fire fighting with educational and training sessions at least quarterly. In addition, paragraph (c)(4) specifies that employers must: Inform brigade members about special hazards such as storage and use of flammable liquids and gases, toxic chemicals, radioactive sources, and water-reactive substances that may be present during fires and other emergencies; advise brigade members of changes in the special hazards; and develop written procedures that describe the actions brigade members must take when special hazards are present, and make these procedures available in the education and training program and for review by the brigade members.

Providing appropriate training to brigade members at the specified frequencies, informing them about special hazards, developing written procedures on how to respond to special hazards, and making these procedures available for training purposes and review by the members enables them to use operational procedures and equipment in a safe manner to avoid or control dangerous exposures to fire-related hazards. Therefore, the training and information requirements specified by paragraphs (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of the Standard prevent serious injuries and death among members of fire brigades.

II. Special Issues for Comment

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information-collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the Agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information-collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply; for example, by using automated or other

technological information-collection and -transmission techniques.

III. Proposed Actions

OSHA proposes to increase the existing burden-hour estimate, and to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval, of the collection-of-information requirements specified in the Standard on Fire Brigades (29 CFR 1910.156). OSHA will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice, and will include this summary in its request to OMB to extend the approval of these information-collection requirements.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently-approved information-collection requirement.

Title: Fire Brigades (29 CFR 1910.156).

OMB Number: 1218-0075.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institution; Federal government; State, local or tribal governments.

Number of Respondents: 55,939.

Frequency: On occasion.

Average Time per Response: Varies from 5 minutes (.08 hour) to 2 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 6.042.

IV. Authority and Signature

John L. Henshaw, 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 7, 2001.

John L. Henshaw,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Property Acquisition and Management Manual

AGENCY: Legal Services Corporation.

ACTION: Issuance of Property Acquisition and Management Manual.

SUMMARY: This Notice sets forth the text of a Property Acquisition and Management Manual that governs the use by recipients of LSC funds to acquire, use and dispose of real and nonexpendable personal property. The Property Acquisition and Management Manual is intended to provide recipients with a single complete and consolidated set of policies and procedures related to property

acquisition, use and disposal and supercedes guidance currently contained in several LSC documents.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Property Acquisition and Management Manual is effective on October 15, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mattie C. Condray, Senior Assistant General Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, Legal Services Corporation, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4250; 202/336-8817 (phone); 202/336-8952 (fax); mcondray@lsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Legal Services Corporation's ("LSC") policies and procedures regarding LSC-funded recipients' property acquisition, use and disposal are incomplete, outdated and disbursed among several different LSC documents. In 1975 and again in 1979, LSC published Instructions in the **Federal Register** setting out procedures for the procurement, inventory control and disposal of nonexpendable personal property by LSC recipients. See 44 FR 22525, April 16, 1979. In 1981, the 1979 Instruction was superseded by the Property Management Manual for LSC Programs ("1981 Property Manual").¹

LSC also addressed property acquisition and management issues in the 1981 version of the Audit and Accounting Guide for Recipients and Auditors ("1981 Audit Guide"). The 1981 Audit Guide included provisions requiring LSC's prior approval of certain purchases and leases of property (real and personal). These provisions were superseded by the LSC rule on cost standards and procedures, 45 CFR part 1630, which was adopted in 1986. See 51 FR 29082, August 13, 1986. Under the current part 1630 rule, adopted in 1997, LSC must approve in advance all purchases of real property, purchases or leases of personal property with a value of over \$10,000 and capital expenditures of more than \$10,000 to improve real property. 45 CFR 1630.5(b).

Notwithstanding the 1981 Audit Guide (or the current part 1630 requirements), the 1981 Property Manual, like its predecessor Instructions, does not address the

¹ The Introduction to the 1981 Property Manual states that it was intended to supersede the 1975 Instruction. No mention is made of the 1979 Instruction. However, because the Manual was finalized as a slightly revised version of the 1979 Instruction, longstanding LSC policy has been that the 1981 Property Manual superseded the 1979 Instruction as well. Current LSC grant assurances and the current Accounting Guide for LSC Recipients reference the Property Manual "or its duly adopted successor."

acquisition, use or disposal of real property.² LSC has instead established its policies relating to real property in a variety of internal memoranda, Program Letters, regulations, grant assurances and individual agreements with recipients purchasing real property which have either restricted the use or regulated the disposal of the property in the event of cessation of LSC funding. Having policies related to real property in such unconnected and disparate sources has become untenable. For example, grant assurances on property have not been consistent over time and have on occasion been challenged as lacking legal authority.

Accordingly, LSC has decided that all of the relevant policies and requirements related to the acquisition, use and disposal of real and personal property should be consolidated and issued in one document. LSC published a proposed Property Acquisition and Management Manual (PAMM) for comment on September 28, 2000 (65 FR 58288). The comments received and the final version of the PAMM are discussed below.

Proposed Property Acquisition and Management Manual

Generally

The PAMM contains both existing and new or revised standards and procedures. In developing the new or revised standards and procedures, LSC looked to three existing Federal sources of property acquisition and management policy: the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR); the Federal Property Management Regulations; and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-110, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations" which contains standards governing the use and disposition of personal and real property by non-profit recipients of Federal funding. While many provisions of the PAMM are based on equivalent sections on these sources, LSC has revised these provisions as necessary to be consistent with LSC law and practice. In addition, this final version of the PAMM reflects some additional changes suggested by the comments LSC

² There have been suggestions to LSC that the 1981 Property Manual was originally intended to apply to real property and was so applied at sometime in the past. LSC's reading of the terms of the Manual, however, and LSC's practice over the last several years applying the requirements of the 1981 Property Manual only to personal property, indicate that it does not, in fact, apply to real property.