

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Toxicology Program (NTP); Request for Nominations of Scientific Experts for Independent Expert Panel Evaluations and/or other Reviews of In Vitro Testing Methods for Identifying Potential Ocular Irritants

Summary

The NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) in collaboration with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) is seeking nominations of scientific experts to evaluate the validation status of in vitro test methods for determining the potential ocular irritancy of chemicals and other substances. The experts will serve on future independent expert panel(s) or participate at other similar meetings and provide input on the usefulness, limitations, accuracy, and reliability of test methods proposed for identifying whether and to what extent substances may cause reversible or irreversible eye damage. The initial review activity will evaluate test methods that may be used to identify severe irreversible ocular irritation/corrosion. Applicable test methods anticipated for review include, but are not limited to: (1) The Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) test; (2) the Hen's Egg Test—Chorion Allantoic Membrane (HET-CAM); (3) the Isolated Rabbit Eye (IRE) test; and (4) the Isolated Chicken Eye (ICE) test. Details about future meetings to evaluate the validation status of in vitro ocular toxicity test methods, including the date, location and availability of background documents, will be announced in the **Federal Register** and posted on the ICCVAM/NICEATM website (<http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>).

Request for Nominations of Experts

NICEATM invites nominations of scientists with relevant knowledge and experience that can serve on independent expert panels or participate at other similar meetings to evaluate in vitro ocular toxicity test methods. Areas of relevant expertise include, but are not limited to: human and animal ophthalmology, with an emphasis on evaluation and treatment of chemical injuries; in vivo ocular toxicity testing; in vitro ocular

toxicology (particularly experience with BCOP, IRE, ICE, and/or HET-CAM); test method validation; and biostatistics. Each nomination should include the person's name, affiliation, contact information (i.e., mailing address, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers), a brief summary of relevant experience and qualifications, and curriculum vitae, if possible. Nominations should be sent to NICEATM by mail, fax, or e-mail within 45 days of the publication date of this notice. Correspondence should be directed to Dr. William Stokes, Director, NICEATM, NIEHS, 79 T.W. Alexander Dr., MD EC-17, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; telephone: 919-541-2384; fax: 919-541-0947; e-mail: iccvam@niehs.nih.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In August 2003, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM) recommended that ICCVAM evaluate certain in vitro test methods for ocular toxicity that could be used to identify substances that cause irreversible ocular damage. The SACATM recommended that NICEATM and ICCVAM prepare a background review document and convene a workshop or other appropriate review activity. In October 2003, EPA submitted a nomination to ICCVAM that included a request to: (1) Review the validation status of four in vitro ocular test methods with the potential to screen chemicals for severe eye irritation or corrosion (BCOP, IRE, ICE, HET-CAM); (2) review the state of the science for other in vitro methods for assessing moderate or mild eye irritation; (3) obtain good quality in vivo eye irritation/corrosion reference data; and (4) to review ways to alleviate pain and suffering which might arise from current in vivo eye irritation testing. ICCVAM endorsed this nomination as a high priority. NICEATM published a **Federal Register** notice on March 24, 2004 (Vol. 69, No. 57, pages 13959–13861) inviting public comment on the nomination and related activities.

NICEATM is preparing Background Review Documents on in vitro ocular test methods that will contain comprehensive summaries of available data, an analysis of the accuracy and reliability of available test method protocols, and related information characterizing the current validation status of these assays. NICEATM requested data on ocular irritancy for chemicals tested using in vivo and in vitro test methods in the March 24 **Federal Register** notice. Applicable data received in response to this notice will

be included in the Background Review Documents and used to assess the performance of in vitro ocular toxicity test methods. Conclusions and recommendations from independent evaluations will be made publicly available and considered by ICCVAM in developing its recommendations on in vitro ocular toxicity test methods. ICCVAM recommendations will address the usefulness and limitations of the test methods for regulatory testing purposes and may include recommended standardized protocols, performance standards, and reference chemicals for future validation studies.

Background Information on ICCVAM and NICEATM

ICCVAM is an interagency committee composed of representatives from fifteen Federal regulatory and research agencies that use or generate toxicological information. ICCVAM promotes the development, validation, regulatory acceptance, and national and international harmonization of toxicological test methods that more accurately assess the safety or hazards of chemicals and products; and test methods that refine, reduce and replace animal use. The ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-545, available at <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/about/PL106545.htm>) established ICCVAM as a permanent interagency committee of the NIEHS under the NICEATM. NICEATM administers the ICCVAM and provides scientific support for ICCVAM and ICCVAM-related activities. NICEATM and ICCVAM work collaboratively to evaluate new and improved test methods applicable to the needs of Federal agencies. Additional information about ICCVAM and NICEATM can be found at the following Web site: <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>.

Dated: April 9, 2004.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[FR Doc. 04-9032 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection Under Review; Alien Change of Address Card

The Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration

Services has submitted the following information collection request for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for sixty days until June 21, 2004.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) 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 technical collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this information collection:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Alien Change of Address Card.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form AR-11, Records Operations, Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Individuals or households. Section 265 of the Immigration and Nationality Act requires aliens in the United States to inform the Citizenship and Immigration Services of any change of address. This form provides a standardized format for compliance.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 720,000 responses at 5 minutes (.083) per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 59,760 annual burden hours.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy, of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Richard A. Sloan 202-514-3291, Director, Regulations and Forms Services, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, Room 4034, 425 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20536. Additionally, comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time may also be directed to Mr. Richard A. Sloan.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Steve Cooper, PRA Clearance Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Office of Chief Information Officer, Regional Office Building 3, 7th and D Streets, SW., Suite 4636-26, Washington, DC 20202.

Dated: April 16, 2004.

Richard A. Sloan,

Department Clearance Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services.

[FR Doc. 04-9000 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Bureau of Customs and Border Protection

Agency Information Collection Activities: African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Textile Certificate of Origin

AGENCY: Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of the Department of Homeland Security has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995: African Growth and Opportunity Act Certificate of Origin. This is a proposed extension of an information collection that was previously approved. CBP is proposing that this information collection be extended with no change to the burden hours. This document is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal**

Register (68 FR 70284) on December 17, 2003, allowing for a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 21, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice, especially the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Department of Homeland Security Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503. Additionally comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to (202) 395-6974.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encourages the general public and affected Federal agencies to submit written comments and suggestions on proposed and/or continuing information collection requests pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13). Your comments should address one of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Proper performance of the functions of the agency/component, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies/components estimate of the burden of The proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including 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.

Title: African Growth and Opportunity Act Certificate of Origin.

OMB Number: 1651-0082.

Form Number: None.

Abstract: The collection of information is required to implement the duty preference provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to provide extension of duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to sensitive articles normally excluded from GSP duty treatment. It also provides for the entry of specific textile and apparel articles free of duty and free of any