

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on a proposed consolidation of four existing submissions of petitions.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the collection of information by June 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic comments on the collection of information to <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/oc/dockets/edockethome.cfm>. Submit written comments on the collection of information to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Robbins, Office of Information Resources Management (HFA-250), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-1223.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, FDA is publishing notice of the proposed collection of information set forth in this document.

With respect to the following collection of information, FDA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FDA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FDA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

Submission of Petitions: Food Additive, Color Additive (Including Labeling), and GRAS Affirmation; Electronic Submission Using FDA Forms 3503 and 3504 (OMB Control Number 0910-0016)—Extension

This notice solicits comments on a proposed collection of the following four existing submissions of petitions: (1) Food Additive and Food Additive Petitions (FAPs) (OMB Control Number 0910-0016), (2) Affirmation of Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) Status (OMB Control Number 0910-0132), (3) Labeling Requirements for Color Additives (Other Than Hair Dyes) and Petitions (CAPs) (OMB Control Number 0910-0185), and (4) Electronic Submission of Food and Color Additive Petitions (OMB Control Number 0910-0480).

Section 409(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 348(a)) provides that a food additive shall be deemed to be unsafe, unless: (1) The additive and its use, or intended use, are in conformity with a regulation issued under section 409 of the act that describes the condition(s) under which the additive may be safely used; (2) the additive and its use, or intended use, conform to the terms of an exemption for investigational use; or (3) a food contact notification submitted under section 409(h) of the act is effective. FAPs are submitted by individuals or companies to obtain approval of a new food additive or to amend the conditions of use permitted under an existing food additive regulation. Section 171.1 (21 CFR 171.1) specifies the information that a petitioner must submit in order to establish that the proposed use of a food additive is safe and to secure the publication of a food additive regulation describing the conditions under which the additive may be safely used. Parts 172, 173, 175 through 178, and 180 (21 CFR parts 172, 173, 175 through 178, and 180) contain labeling requirements for certain food additives to ensure their safe use.

Section 721(a) of the act (21 U.S.C. 379e(a)) provides that a color additive shall be deemed to be unsafe unless the additive and its use are in conformity with a regulation that describes the condition(s) under which the additive may safely be used, or the additive and

its use conform to the terms of an exemption for investigational use issued under section 721(f) of the act. CAPs are submitted by individuals or companies to obtain approval of a new color additive or a change in the conditions of use permitted for a color additive that is already approved. Section 71.1 specifies the information that a petitioner must submit in order to establish the safety of a color additive and to secure the issuance of a regulation permitting its use. FDA's color additive labeling requirements in § 70.25 (21 CFR 70.25) require that color additives that are to be used in food, drugs, devices, or cosmetics be labeled with sufficient information to ensure their safe use.

Under authority of sections 201, 402, 409, and 701 of the act (21 U.S.C. 321, 342, 348, and 371), FDA reviews petitions for affirmation as GRAS that are submitted on a voluntary basis by the food industry and other interested parties. Specifically under section 201(s) of the act, a substance is GRAS if it is generally recognized among experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate its safety, to be safe through either scientific procedures or common use in food. The act has historically been interpreted to permit food manufacturers to make their own determination that use of a substance in food is GRAS. To implement the GRAS provisions of the act, FDA has issued procedural regulations under 21 CFR 170.35(c)(1).

In the **Federal Register** of July 31, 2001 (66 FR 39517), FDA announced the availability of a draft guidance entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry on Providing Regulatory Submissions to Office of Food Additive Safety in Electronic Format for Food Additive and Color Additive Petitions." This guidance describes the procedures for electronic submission of FAPs and CAPs using FDA Form No. 3503 entitled "Food Additive Petition Submission Application" and FDA Form No. 3504 entitled "Color Additive Petition Submission Application."

FDA scientific personnel review food and color additive and GRAS affirmation petitions to ensure the safety of the intended use of the substance in or on food, or of a food additive that may be present in food as a result of its use in articles that contact food (or for color additives, its use in food, drugs, cosmetics, or medical devices). Respondents are businesses engaged in the manufacture or sale of food, food ingredients, color additives, or substances used in materials that come into contact with food.