

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. 03N-0066]

Agency Emergency Processing Under OMB Review; Inspection by Accredited Persons Program Under the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a proposed collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for emergency processing under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA). The proposed collection of information will be used by FDA to publish the criteria FDA intends to use to accredit third parties to conduct inspections of eligible manufacturers of class II and class III medical devices.

DATES: Fax written comments on the information collection provisions by May 28, 2003. FDA is requesting approval of this emergency processing by June 12, 2003, under the PRA of 1995 to implement the statutory provision under section 201 of the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002 (MDUFMA).

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to OMB. OMB is still experiencing significant delays in the regular mail, including first class and express mail, and messenger deliveries are not being accepted. To ensure that comments on the information collection are received, OMB recommends that written comments be electronically mailed to sshapiro@omb.eop.gov or faxed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attn: Stuart Shapiro, Desk Officer for FDA, FAX: 202-395-6974. 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: FDA has requested emergency processing of this

proposed collection of information under section 3507(j) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3507(j) and 5 CFR 1320.13). This information is needed immediately so that the agency can publish the criteria required to implement an Inspection by Accredited Persons Program to accredit persons that wish to conduct inspections of eligible manufacturers of class II and class III medical devices. FDA is requesting this emergency processing to implement the statutory provision under section 201 of the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002 (MDUFMA) directing FDA to publish criteria for accrediting third parties within 180 days of enactment of MDUFMA. In addition, FDA must accredit persons under the published criteria no later than 1 year after enactment of MDUFMA. MDUFMA was signed into law on October 26, 2002. The use of normal clearance procedure would likely result in the prevention or disruption of this collection of information. Therefore, FDA has requested approval of emergency processing of this proposed collection of information by June 12, 2003.

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.

Inspection by Accredited Persons Program Under MDUFMA

MDUFMA, Public Law 107-250, amends section 704 (21 U.S.C. 374) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. MDUFMA was signed into law on October 26, 2002.

New section 704(g)(1) of the act (21 U.S.C. 374(g)(1)) directs FDA to accredit persons to inspect eligible manufacturers of class II and class III medical devices in lieu of an FDA inspection. Under section 704(g)(2) (21 U.S.C. 374(g)(2)) of the act, FDA must

publish, within 180 days of enactment of MDUFMA, criteria for the accreditation of third parties to conduct inspections of eligible manufacturers of class II and class III medical devices. Within 60 days of receiving a request for accreditation, FDA must inform the requestor whether the request for accreditation is adequate for review. Under section 704(g)(4) of the act (21 U.S.C. 374(g)(4)), FDA must publish, on the Internet, a complete list of accredited persons and the activities for which they are accredited. These sections of the act will enable FDA to implement an "Inspection by Accredited Persons Program" under MDUFMA.

Participation in the program is voluntary. Manufacturers may continue to have FDA perform inspections or, if eligible, they may utilize an accredited person. FDA will serve as the accreditation body. FDA will begin accepting applications immediately following approval by OMB of the proposed collection of information. Because the statute requires the agency to make accreditation decisions no later than 1 year after MDUFMA's enactment (October 26, 2003), FDA intends to stop accepting applications on August 25, 2003.

Elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, FDA is publishing a document announcing the criteria it will use to accredit persons to inspect eligible device manufacturers and the availability of a guidance entitled "Implementation of the Inspection by Accredited Persons Program Under the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002; Accreditation Criteria: Guidance for Industry, FDA Staff, and Third Parties." The guidance further describes the criteria FDA will use to accredit persons that wish to conduct inspections of eligible manufacturers of class II and class III medical devices. The guidance also addresses the format and content of accreditation applications and the evaluation process FDA will use in qualifying firms to participate in this program.

Respondents to the proposed collection of information will likely be businesses or other for-profit organizations.

FDA estimates the burden of this information collection as follows: