

electronic public docket without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

*C. What Should I Consider When I Prepare My Comments for EPA?*

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternative ways to improve the collection activity.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this notice.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket ID number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

*D. What Information is EPA Particularly Interested in?*

Pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, EPA specifically solicits comments and information to enable it to:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collections of information are 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 Agency's estimates of the burdens of the proposed collections of information.
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
4. Minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated or electronic collection technologies or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**IV. What Information Collection Activity or ICR Does This Action Apply to?**

EPA is seeking comments on the following ICR:

*Title:* Adverse Effects Reporting Under Section 6(a)(2) of FIFRA

*ICR numbers:* EPA ICR No. 1204.09; OMB Control No. 2070-0039

*ICR status:* This ICR is a renewal of an existing ICR that is currently approved by OMB and is due to expire January 31, 2004.

*Abstract:* Section 6(a)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires pesticide registrants to submit information to the Agency that they acquire which may be relevant to the balancing of the risks and benefits of a pesticide product. The statute requires the registrant to submit any factual information that it acquires regarding adverse effects associated with its pesticidal products, and it is up to the Agency to determine whether or not that factual information constitutes an unreasonable adverse effect. Responses to this collection are mandatory. The authority for this information collection is pursuant to section 6(a)(2) of FIFRA. Compliance regulations are contained in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 159. CBI submitted to EPA in response to this information collection is protected from disclosure under FIFRA section 10. In order to limit the amount of less meaningful information that might be submitted to the Agency, the EPA has limited the scope of factual information that the registrant must submit. On September 19, 1997, the Agency published final regulations (62 FR 49370) that provided a detailed description of the reporting obligations of registrants under FIFRA section 6(a)(2). The regulations became effective on August 17, 1998.

**V. What are EPA's Burden and Cost Estimates for This ICR?**

Under the PRA, "burden" means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal Agency. For this collection it includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

The ICR provides a detailed explanation of this estimate, which is only briefly summarized in this notice.

The annual public burden for this information collection is estimated to be 155,640 hours. The following is a summary of the estimates taken from the ICR:

*Respondents/affected entities:* Pesticide registrants who sell or distribute pesticide products in the United States.

*Estimated total number of potential respondents:* 1,877

*Frequency of response:* As necessary

*Estimated total/average number of responses for each respondent:* 1 to 3

*Estimated total annual burden hours:* 155,640

*Estimated total annual burden costs:* \$12,057,947

**VI. Are There Changes in the Estimates From the Last Approval?**

The burden hour estimate in this ICR has decreased from 166,266 to 155,640, which reflects a number of adjustments. First, there are slightly fewer registrants of active pesticide products and fewer employees to be trained than reflected in the previous ICR. Burden estimates associated with the number of studies the respondents might submit on an annual basis have decreased from 350 to 325. For studies, the burden hours are reduced from 5.9 to 3.2 hours per study. These reductions reflect a mature program and the familiarity with the regulations that comes with experience. Burden costs, however, are not comparably reduced because of higher labor rates.

**VII. What is the Next Step in the Process for This ICR?**

EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12. EPA will issue another **Federal Register** notice pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(1)(iv) to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB. If you have any questions about this ICR or the approval process, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**List of Subjects**

Environmental protection, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: April 23, 2003.

**Susan B. Hazen,**  
*Acting Assistant Administrator for  
Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*

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