

program that receives an exemption (see paragraph c. below).

For purposes of this policy, the applicant is the entity that meets the agency's or program's eligibility criteria and has the legal authority to apply. For example, a consortium formed to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement must obtain a DUNS number for that consortium. If a consortium is eligible, and the agency's policy is to make the award to a lead entity for the consortium, the DUNS number of the lead entity will be used.

b. *Effect.* Every application for a new award or renewal of an award, including applications or plans under mandatory grant programs, submitted on or after October 1, 2003 must include a DUNS number for the applicant. Unless an exemption is granted, an application will not be considered complete until a valid DUNS number is provided by the applicant.

For Federal purposes, the applicant is not required at this time to submit DUNS numbers for entities with which it may enter into subawards.

The DUNS number does not replace existing numbers, such as the Employer Identification Number (EIN), the Tax Identification Number (TIN), and State Application Identifier (SAI) numbers that are required by statute, Executive Order, or regulation.

c. *Exemptions.* Agencies may not grant exemptions from this policy. Requests for exemptions must be directed to OMB.

5. *Agency Responsibilities.* Agencies that award grants or cooperative agreements shall:

a. Issue any needed implementing direction to component offices to meet the requirements of this policy directive.

b. Provide outreach and education appropriate to their applicant communities regarding the requirement for a DUNS number. Agencies should encourage entities that anticipate applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements to obtain a DUNS number in advance of a specific application. Agencies should inform entities that it is their responsibility to obtain a DUNS number.

c. Include this requirement in all funding opportunity announcements issued on or after the effective date of this policy directive with application due dates or acceptance dates on or after October 1, 2003. For all other funding opportunity announcements with due dates or acceptance dates on or after October 1, 2003, agencies must amend their announcements or take other appropriate measures to inform potential applicants of this requirement.

These requirements apply equally to other types of notifications if funding opportunity announcements are not used.

d. Revise their grant and cooperative agreement applications and plans to include a DUNS number. OMB approval is not required to add a DUNS number field to previously approved forms.

e. Ensure that their grant-related processing systems, and other systems as appropriate, are able to accept the DUNS number.

6. *Information Contact.* Direct any requests for exemption or questions about this policy directive to Sandra Swab, Office of Federal Financial Management, 202-395-5642 (direct) or 202-395-3993 (main office), or via e-mail ([sswab@omb.eop.gov](mailto:sswab@omb.eop.gov))

7. *Effective Date.* This policy directive is effective 30 days after issuance.

Dated: June 23, 2003.

**Linda M. Springer,**  
*Controller.*

[FR Doc. 03-16356 Filed 6-26-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3110-01-P**

## OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

### Final Report of the Small Business Paperwork Relief Task Force

**AGENCY:** Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Management is publishing the Final Report of the Small Business Paperwork Relief Task Force on June 28, 2003. The Small Business Paperwork Relief Task Force recommends options regarding the feasibility of consolidating information collections, organizing a list of information collections, and creating interactive electronic systems. A Draft Report was released for public comment May 9, 2003 and the response to comments is included in Appendix 8 of the Final Report. The Final Report of the Small Business Paperwork Relief Task Force is posted on OMB's Web site, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/sbpr2003.pdf>, and on the Small Business Administration's Web site for business laws, <http://www.businesslaw.gov>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shivani Desai, Office of E-Government and Information Technology, Office of Management and Budget, E-mail: [shivani\\_desai@omb.eop.gov](mailto:shivani_desai@omb.eop.gov), Telephone: (202) 395-3092.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Congress directed the Director of OMB to convene and have a representative chair a Task Force "to study the feasibility of streamlining requirements with respect to small business concerns regarding collection of information and strengthening dissemination of information" (44 U.S.C. 3520, Pub. L. 107-198). More specifically, this Small Business Paperwork Relief Task Force is charged with examining five ways to reduce the information collection burden placed by government on small business concerns. They are:

1. Examine the feasibility and desirability of requiring the consolidation of information collection requirements within and across Federal agencies and programs, and identify ways of doing so.

2. Examine the feasibility and benefits to small businesses of having OMB publish a list of data collections organized in a manner by which they can more easily identify requirements with which they are expected to comply.

3. Examine the savings and develop recommendations for implementing electronic submissions of information to the Federal government with immediate feedback to the submitter.

4. Make recommendations to improve the electronic dissemination of information collected under Federal requirements.

5. Recommend a plan to develop an interactive Government-wide Internet program to identify applicable collections and facilitate compliance.

The Small Business Paperwork Relief Task Force is required to submit a report of its findings on the first three issues no later than one year after enactment, or June 28, 2003. A second report on the final two issues is required no later than two years after enactment, or June 28, 2004. Both reports must be submitted to the Director of OMB; the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman; and the Senate Committees on Governmental Affairs and Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and, the House Committees on Government Reform and Small Business.

The Director of OMB appointed Dr. John D. Graham, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, and Mr. Mark A. Forman, Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology, to co-chair the Small Business Paperwork Relief Task Force.

The Act specifies the following agencies to be represented on the SBPRA Task Force: Department of Labor (including the Bureau of Labor