

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Occupational Safety and Health Administration****[Docket No. ICR-1218-1099 (2003)]****Standard on Walking-Working Surfaces; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's Approval of Information-Collection (Paperwork) Requirements****AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.**ACTION:** Request for comment.

SUMMARY: OSHA requests comment concerning its proposed extension of the information-collection requirements specified by its Standard on Walking-Working Surfaces (29 CFR part 1910, subpart D). This Standard applies to all permanent places of employment, except where domestic, mining, or agricultural work only is performed.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by the following dates:

Hard Copy: Your comments must be submitted (postmarked or received) by September 2, 2003.

Facsimile and electronic transmission: Your comments must be received by September 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES:**I. Submission of Comments**

Regular mail, express delivery, hand-delivery, and messenger service: Submit your comments and attachment to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. ICR 1218-0199 (2003), Room N-2625, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. OSHA Docket Office and Department of Labor hours of operation are 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., EST.

Facsimile: If your comments, including any attachments, are 10 pages or fewer, you may fax them to the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-1648. You must include the docket number, ICR 1218-0199 (2003), in your comments.

Electronic: You may submit comments, but not attachments, through the Internet at <http://ecomments.osha.gov/>.

You may submit comments in response to this document by (1) hard copy, (2) FAX transmission (facsimile), or (3) electronically through the OSHA webpage. Please note you cannot attach materials such as studies or journal articles to electronic comments. If you have additional materials, you must submit three copies of them to the OSHA Docket Office at the address above. The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments by name, date, subject and

docket number so we can attach them to your comments. Because of security-related problems there may be a significant delay in the receipt of comments by regular mail. Please contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350 for information about security procedures concerning the delivery of materials by express delivery, hand delivery and messenger service.

II. Obtaining Copies of the Supporting Statement for the Information Collection Request

The Supporting Statement for the Information Collection Request is available for downloading from OSHA's Web site at www.osha.gov. The supporting statement is available for inspection and copying in the OSHA Docket Office, at the address listed above. A printed copy of the supporting statement can be obtained by contacting Theda Kenney at (202) 693-2222.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theda Kenney, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3609, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210; telephone (202) 693-2222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (*i.e.*, employer) burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing information-collection requirements in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA-95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimized, collection instruments are understandable, and OSHA's estimate of the information-collection burden is correct.

The collections of information contained in the Walking-Working Surfaces standard are necessary to protect workers from the collapse of overloaded floors and the failure of defective portable metal ladders.

Paragraph 1910.22(d)(1) requires that load limits approved by the building official be marked on plates supplied and securely affixed by the owner of the building, or his duly authorized agent, in a conspicuous place in each space to which they relate. The plates are not to be removed or defaced but, if lost, removed, or defaced, they shall be replaced by the owner or his agent.

Under paragraph 1910.26(c)(2)(vii), ladders having defects are to be marked

and taken out of service until repaired by either the maintenance department or the manufacturer.

Paragraph 1910.28(e)(3) requires that outrigger scaffolds designed by a registered professional engineer be constructed and erected in accordance with table D-16 of this section. A copy of the detailed drawings and specifications showing the sizes and spacing of members shall be kept on the job.

II. Special Issues for Comment

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information-collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the Agency's functions to protect workers, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information-collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply; for example, by using automated or other technological information collection and transmission techniques.

In addition, the Agency specifically requests information on the number of portable metal ladders that become defective in one year. Also, the Agency is interested in knowing whether outrigger scaffolds are used in general industry.

III. Proposed Actions

OSHA proposes to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the collection-information requirements specified by the Standard on Walking-Working Surfaces (29 CFR part 1910, subpart D). The Agency will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice, and will include this summary in its request to OMB to extend the approval of these information-collection requirements.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently-approved collection-information requirement.

Title: Walking-Working Surfaces (29 CFR part 1910, subpart D).

OMB Number: 1218-0199.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 10,000.