

Description: The purpose of 29 CFR 1910.1050 and its information collection requirements is to provide protection for employees from adverse health effects associated with occupational exposure to 4,4'-Methylenedianiline. Employers must monitor exposure, keep employee exposures within the permissible exposure limits, provide employees with medical examinations and training, and establish and maintain employee exposure-monitoring and medical records.

Agency: Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Title: Electrical Protective Equipment (1910.137) and Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution (1910.269).

OMB Number: 1218-0190.

Frequency: On occasion; Semi-annually; and Annually.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; and State, local, or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 12,195.

Number of Annual Responses: 548,886.

Estimated Time Per Response: Varies from 1 minute to 15 minutes.

Total Burden Hours: 22,685.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: \$0.

Total annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): \$0.

Description: Under 29 CFR 1910.137(b)(2)(xii), employers must certify that the electrical protective equipment used by their employees passed the tests specified in paragraphs (b)(2)(viii), (b)(2)(ix), and (b)(2)(xi) of the standard. The certification must identify the equipment that passed the tests and the dates of the tests. This provision helps ensure that electrical protective equipment is reliable and safe for employee use and will provide adequate protection against electric shock. In addition, certification helps OSHA to determine if employers are in compliance with the equipment-testing requirements of the standard.

Section 1910.269(a)(2)(vii) requires employers to certify that each employee received the training specified in paragraph (a)(2) of the standard. Employers must provide certification after an employee demonstrates proficiency in the work practices involved. This certification requirement helps employers monitor the training their employees received and helps

OSHA determine if employers provided the required training to their employees.

Ira L. Mills,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment; Employee Benefit Plan Claims Procedures Under ERISA

AGENCY: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employee Benefits Security Administration is soliciting comments on the proposed extension of the information collection request (ICR) incorporated in regulations pertaining to Employee Benefit Plan Claims Procedures under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

A copy of the (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the **ADDRESSES** section on or before December 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-8410, FAX (202) 693-4745 (these are not toll-free numbers).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 503 of ERISA provides that, pursuant to regulations promulgated by

the Secretary of Labor, each employee benefit plan shall provide notice in writing to any participant or beneficiary whose claim for benefits under the plan has been denied. This notice must set forth the specific reasons for the denial and must be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant. Plans must also afford a reasonable opportunity for a participant or beneficiary whose claim has been denied to obtain a full and fair review of the denial by the appropriate named fiduciary.

The Department first issued regulations pertaining to claims procedures in 1977. These procedures were subsequently amended by a Notice of Final Rulemaking published on November 21, 2000 (65 FR 70246). The regulatory provisions pursuant to ERISA section 503 are codified at 29 CFR 2560.503-1. These regulations require the establishment of reasonable claims procedures, and describe the timing and content of notices and disclosures that will be deemed to constitute part of a reasonable claims procedure.

II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor (Department) is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of this ICR is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2003. After considering comments received in response to this notice, the Department intends to submit the ICR to OMB for continuing approval. No change to the existing ICR is proposed or made at this time.

Agency: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.