

budgetary goals and it serves as a guideline for the acquisition.

**Annual Acquisition Plans**—As a means of funds control, prioritization, and workload scheduling, USPTO intends to continue to utilize yearly acquisition plans that are tied to the budget process. The plans should be updated as priorities and funding changes occur to ensure accuracy and currency. Plans will be concise. All planned acquisitions for a given fiscal year should be included on the yearly acquisition plan.

**Separate Project Agreements**—The USPTO may use a separate project agreement for individual or multiple actions that utilize the Alternative Streamlined Contracting Approach. Project Agreement documents tailored to the size and complexity of the various acquisitions will be developed.

**Individual Acquisition Plans**—The content of the individual acquisition plan shall be left to the discretion of the Contracting Officer. At a minimum, acquisitions plans should contain the following:

- a. Statement of need.
- b. Applicable conditions.
- c. Cost.
- d. Risks.
- e. Plan of action.
- f. Milestones.

#### *Printing Requirements*

The Patent and Trademark Efficiency Act, 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(4)(B), exempts the USPTO from requirements for printing by the Government Printing Office. Accordingly the USPTO intends to acquire printing by the most economic and efficient means available, which may in particular acquisitions include the Government Printing Office.

#### *Market Research*

The purpose of USPTO's approach to market research is to identify and determine the availability of products or services that will satisfy its requirements. The USPTO will use such research, as appropriate, to help it ascertain the most efficient acquisition strategy—with consideration of the range of potential sources, availability of commercial items, and identification of standard commercial practices. Accordingly, the USPTO intends to conduct market research that, to the extent possible, is based upon clear statements of an acquisition's intended outcome and does not foreclose, before research is conducted, the consideration of any reasonable solution or technology for accomplishing its goal. The best result of market research will be achieved when there is a clear statement of the acquisition's intended outcome.

Market research is the responsibility of the entire acquisition team. USPTO Contracting Officers should work closely with technical/program staff to ensure that appropriate market research is conducted. The extent and results of market research efforts should be documented in acquisition planning documents and/or project agreements when the Alternative Streamlined Contracting Approach is utilized.

#### *Bid Protests*

The USPTO continues to be subject to the bid protest jurisdiction of the General Accounting Office and of the Court of Federal Claims. The USPTO is also subject to Executive Order 12979 concerning protests to the agency. Its procedures for considering such protests are available at: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/comp/proc/protest.htm>.

Dated: January 31, 2003.

**James E. Rogan,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 03-2921 Filed 2-5-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## **CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**

### **Request for Comments Concerning Proposed Extension of Approval of a Collection of Information—Safety Standard for Walk-Behind Power Lawn Mowers**

**AGENCY:** Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Consumer Product Safety Commission requests comments on a proposed request for an extension of approval of a collection of information from manufacturers and importers of walk-behind power lawn mowers. This collection of information consists of testing and recordkeeping requirements in certification regulations implementing the Safety Standard for Walk-Behind Power Lawn Mowers (16 CFR part 1205). The Commission will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting an extension of approval of this collection of information from the Office of Management and Budget.

**DATES:** The Office of the Secretary must receive written comments not later than April 7, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be captioned "Walk-Behind Power

Lawn Mowers" and mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Written comments may also be sent to the Office of the Secretary by facsimile at (301) 504-0127 or by e-mail at [cpsc-os@cpsc.gov](mailto:cpsc-os@cpsc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about the proposed extension of approval of the collection of information, or to obtain a copy of 16 CFR part 1205, call or write Linda L. Glatz, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-7671.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 1979, the Commission issued the Safety Standard for Walk-Behind Power Lawn Mowers (16 CFR part 1205) under provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) (15 U.S.C. 2051 *et seq.*) to eliminate or reduce risks of amputations, avulsions, lacerations, and other serious injuries which have resulted from the accidental contact of some part of an operator's body with the rotating blade of a power lawn mower. The standard contains performance and labeling requirements for walk-behind power lawn mowers to address risks of blade-contact injuries.

#### **A. Certification Requirements**

Section 14(a) of the CPSA (15 U.S.C. 2063(a)) requires manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of a consumer product subject to a consumer product safety standard to issue a certificate stating that the product complies with all applicable consumer product safety standards. Section 14(a) of the CPSA also requires that the certificate of compliance must be based on a test of each product or upon a reasonable testing program.

Section 14(b) of the CPSA authorizes the Commission to issue regulations to prescribe a reasonable testing program to support certificates of compliance with a consumer product safety standard. Section 16(b) of the CPSA (15 U.S.C. 2065(b)) authorizes the Commission to issue rules to require that firms "establish and maintain" records to permit the Commission to determine compliance with rules issued under the authority of the CPSA.

The Commission has issued regulations prescribing requirements for a reasonable testing program to support certificates of compliance with the standard for walk-behind power mowers. These regulations also require manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of walk-behind power mowers