

II. 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 cost) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA's estimate of the information collection burden is correct. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (the Act) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657).

The standards on Construction Fall Protection Systems Criteria and Practice (29 CFR 1926.502) and Training Requirements (29 CFR 1926.503) ensure that employers provide the required fall protection for their employees. Accordingly, these standards have the following paperwork requirements: Paragraphs (c)(4)(ii) and (k) of 29 CFR 1926.502, which specify certification of safety nets and development of fall-protection plans, respectively, and paragraph (b) of 29 CFR 1926.502, which requires employers to certify training records. The training-certification requirement specified in paragraph (b) of 29 CFR 1926.503 documents the training provided to employees potentially exposed to fall hazards. A competent person must train these employees to recognize fall hazards and in the use of procedures and equipment that minimize these hazards. An employer must verify compliance with this training requirement by preparing and maintaining a written certification record that contains the: Name or other identifier of the employee receiving the training; the date(s) of the training; and the signature of the competent person who conducted the training or of the employer.

III. 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.

IV. Proposed Actions

OSHA is proposing to extend the information collection requirements in the Construction Fall Protection Plans and Records (29 CFR 1926.502 and 1926.503). The Agency is proposing to increase the burden by 149,895 hours, from 771,166 hours to 921,061 hours, mainly as a result of increasing the estimated number of fall protection plans. The fall protection plan and certification records of net drop test and training are needed to help employees identify fall hazards and to know which protective measures are to be used.

OSHA will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice, and will include this summary in the request to OMB to extend the approval of the information collection requirements contained in the Construction Fall Protection Plans and Records Standard.

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

Title: Construction Fall Protection Plans and Training Requirements in Construction (29 CFR 1926.502 and 1926.503).

OMB Number: 1218-0197.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 100,080.

Frequency: On occasion.

Average Time Per Response: Varies (*i.e.*, 5 minutes (.08 hour) to certify a safety net to 65 minutes to develop and write a fall-protection plan).

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 921,061.

Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance): 0.

V. Authority and Signature

John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506), and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 5-2002 (67 FR 65008).

Signed at Washington, DC on December 17, 2003.

John L. Henshaw,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Study of IMLS Funded Digital Collections and Content—Focus Groups, Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request

AGENCY: Institute of Museum and Library Services, NFAH.

ACTION: Notice of requests for new information collection approval.

SUMMARY: The Institute of Museum and Library Services announces the following information collection has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of this proposed information collection request, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Director of Research and Technology, Rebecca Danvers at (202) 606-2478. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY/TDD) may call (202) 606-8636.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 22, 2004. The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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 submission of responses.

ADDRESSES: For a copy of the information collection request contact: Rebecca Danvers, Director of Research