

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR THE
INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS OF THE
FIRE BRIGADES STANDARD (29 CFR 1910.156)¹
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)
Control No. 1218-0075 (October 2020)**

This ICR is requesting an extension of a currently approved collection of data.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The main purpose of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (“OSH Act” or “Act”) is to “assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources” (29 U.S.C. 651). To achieve this objective, the OSH Act specifically authorizes “the development and promulgation of occupational safety and health standards” (29 U.S.C. 651). In addition, the OSH Act specifies that “[e]ach employer shall make, keep and preserve, and make available to the Secretary . . . such records regarding . . . activities relating to this Act as the Secretary . . . may prescribe by regulation as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of this Act . . .” (29 U.S.C. 657). OSH Act specifically authorizes “the development and promulgation of occupational safety and health standards” (29 U.S.C. 651).

Under the authority granted by the OSH Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA” or “the Agency”) published the Fire Brigades Standard (the “Standard;” 29 CFR 1910.156). The Standard imposes the following paperwork requirements on each employer who establishes a fire brigade: Write an organizational statement; ascertain the fitness of workers with specific medical conditions to participate in fire related operations; and to provide appropriate training and information to fire brigade members. Items 2 and 12 below describe the specific information collection requirements of the Standard.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the Agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Although OSHA does not mandate that employers establish fire brigades, if they do so, they must comply with the provisions of the Standard. The provisions of the Standard, including the paperwork requirements, apply to fire brigades, industrial fire departments, and private or

¹This Supporting Statement analyzes and describes the burden hours and costs associated with provisions of this Standard that contain paperwork requirements; this Supporting Statement does not provide information or guidance on how to comply with, or how to enforce, the Standard.

contract fire departments, but not to airport crash rescue units or forest fire-fighting operations. Paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2) and (c)(4) contain the paperwork requirements of the Standard.

Under paragraph (b)(1) of the Standard, employers must develop and maintain an organizational statement that establishes the: Existence of a fire brigade; the basic organizational structure of the brigade; type, amount, and frequency of training provided to brigade members; expected number of members in the brigade; and functions that the brigade is to perform. This paragraph also specifies that the organizational statement must be available for review by workers, their designated representatives, and OSHA compliance officers. The organizational statement delineates the functions performed by the brigade members and, therefore, determines the level of training and type of personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for these members to perform their assigned functions safely. Making the statement available to workers, their designated representatives, and OSHA compliance officers ensures that the elements of the statement are consistent with the functions performed by the brigade members and the occupational hazards they experience, and employers are providing training and PPE appropriate to these functions and hazards.

To permit a worker with known heart disease, epilepsy, or emphysema to participate in fire brigade emergency activities, paragraph (b)(2) of the Standard requires employers to obtain a physician's certificate of the worker's fitness to do so. This provision provides employers with a direct and efficient means of ascertaining whether or not they can safely expose workers with these medical conditions to the hazards of firefighting operations.

Under (c)(4) of the standard, the employer shall inform fire brigade members about special hazards such as storage and use of flammable liquids and gases, toxic chemicals, radioactive sources, and water reactive substances, to which they may be exposed during fire and other emergencies. The fire brigade members shall also be advised of any changes that occur in relation to the special hazards. The employer shall develop and make available for inspection by fire brigade members, written procedures that describe the actions to be taken in situations involving the special hazards and shall include these procedures into their training and education program.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burdens.

Employers may use automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological information collection techniques, or other forms of information technology (e.g., electronic submission of responses) when establishing and maintaining the required records. The Agency wrote the paperwork requirements of the provision in performance-oriented language (i.e., in terms of what data to collect, not how to record the data.)

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in A.2 above.

The requirement to collect and maintain information is specific to each employer and worker involved, and no other source or agency duplicates these requirements or can make the required information available to OSHA (i.e., the required information is available only from employers).

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to reduce the burden.

The information collection requirements specified by the Standard do not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is or is not conducted less frequently, and any technical or legal obstacles to reducing the burden.

The Agency believes that the information collection frequencies required by the Standard are the minimum frequencies necessary to fulfill its mandate “to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources” as specified in the OSH Act at 29 U.S.C. 651. Accordingly, if employers do not perform the required information collections, or delay in providing this information, fire brigade members will be at increased risk of serious injuries or death while exposed to fire related hazards.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- **requiring respondents to report information to the Agency more often than quarterly;**
- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **requiring the use of statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**

- **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the Agency can prove that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

No special circumstances exist that require employers to collect information using the procedures specified by this item. The requirements are within the guidelines set forth in 5 CFR 1320.5.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the *Federal Register* of the Agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection before submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the Agency in response to those comments specifically address comments received on cost and hour burdens.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, revealed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every three years – even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that mitigate against consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506)(c)(2)(A)), OSHA published a notice in the Federal Register on August 3, 2020 (85 FR 46731) soliciting comments on its proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's approval of the information collection requirements contained in the Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156), (Docket No. OSHA-2011-0009). This notice was part of a preclearance consultation program that provided interested parties the opportunity to comment on OSHA's request for an extension by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of a previous approval of the information collection requirement found in the above Standard. The Agency did not receive any comments in response to this notice.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payments or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

The Agency will *not* provide payments or gifts to the respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or Agency policy.

The paperwork requirements specified by the Standard do not involve confidential information.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the Agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

The provision does not involve collection of sensitive information.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage-rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 13.**

Respondent Burden-Hour and Cost Burden Determinations

According to the 2017 United States Census Bureau County Business Patterns,² there are 25,546 manufacturing facilities with 100 or more workers. OSHA estimates that these information collection requirements result in a total of 2,767 burden hours.

²Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 County Business Patterns, NAICS 31-33 Manufacturing
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&g=&d=ANN%20Business%20Patterns%20County%20Business%20Patterns&table=CB1800CBP&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=true&lastDisplayedRow=18>

The Agency determined the wage rate from mean hourly wage earnings to represent the cost of employee time. For the relevant standard occupational classification category, OSHA used the wage rates reported in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Employment Statistics (OES), May 2019* [date accessed: June 29, 2020].³

To derive the loaded hourly wage rate, the Agency used data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) *Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)*, as described in the paragraph above. Then, the Agency applied to the wage rate a fringe benefit markup based on Table 2 of the following BLS release: *Employer Costs for Compensation* news release text; released 10:00 AM (EDT), June 18, 2020 (<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>). BLS reported that for civilian workers, fringe benefits accounted for 31.3 percent of total compensation and wages accounted for the remaining 68.7 percent. To calculate the loaded hourly wage for each occupation, the Agency divided the mean hourly wage rate by 1 minus the fringe benefits as shown in Table 1.

Occupational Title	Standard Occupational Code	Mean Hour Wage Rate	Fringe Benefits	Loaded Hourly Wage Rate
First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers (Manager)	33-1021	\$39.43	.313	\$57.39

The following sections describe the burden hour and cost estimates for the information collection requirements specified by the Standard. These sections determine burden hours and cost separately for the written organizational statement, and for providing appropriate information for fire brigade members.

(A) Organizational Statement (§1910.156(b)(1))

As mentioned earlier, the data from the 2017 County Business Patterns estimates that there are 25,546 manufacturing facilities with 100 or more workers. The Agency estimates that all of these facilities would have fire brigades. Additionally, the Agency assumes that each year, five percent (i.e., 1,277) of the total establishments either develop new or revised organizational statements for their fire brigades. OSHA estimates that a fire prevention manager, at a wage rate of \$57.39, spends an average of 2 hours developing or revising a statement. Therefore, the annual burden hour and cost estimates for this recordkeeping requirement are:

Burden Hours: 1,277 statements x 2 hours = 2,554 hours

³ OES data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>. To access a wage rate, select the year “Occupational Profiles,” and the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code.

Cost: 2,554 hours x \$57.39= \$146,574

(B) Physician Certification (§1910.156(b)(2))

Based on staff expertise, the Agency assumes that the average fire brigade consists of 10 members. Therefore, OSHA estimates that the 25,546 fire brigades have about 255,460 members. This figure estimates 10 members per fire brigade. However, the Agency has no data to determine the number of brigade members with known heart disease, epilepsy, or emphysema who need a physician's certificate of fitness to perform interior structural firefighting; thus, for the purposes of this determination, OSHA assumes employers will obtain physician certificates from one percent (i.e., 2,555) of brigade members. The Agency estimates that it will take a manager 5 minutes (5/60 hour) to obtain the certificate from the worker, resulting in the following yearly burden hour and cost estimates:

Burden Hours: 2,555 certificates x 5/60 minutes = 213 hours

Cost: 213 hours x \$57.39= \$12,224

(C) Information (§1910.156(c)(4))

The Agency has determined that the training requirements found in §§1910.156(c)(1) and (c)(2) are not subject to the implementing rules and guidelines required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Therefore, the Agency will incur no burden hours or cost for these paragraphs.

Paragraph (c)(4) of the Standard requires employers to inform fire brigade members regarding special hazards such as storage and the use of flammable liquids and gases, toxic chemicals, radioactive sources, and water-reactive substances that may be present during fires and other emergencies, as well as any changes in the special hazards. It also requires that employers develop written procedures describing the actions that brigade members are to take when special hazards are present, and to make these procedures available in its education and training program and for review by brigade members.

The Agency believes that it is a usual and customary practice for employers with fire brigades to provide information to brigade members. OSHA believes that employers meet the requirement when they develop or update organizational statements under paragraph (b)(1) of the Standard. Accordingly, OSHA is taking no burden hours or cost for either of these paperwork requirements.

Table 2: Estimated Annualized Respondent Hour and Cost Burden							
Information Collection Requirements	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total No. of Responses	Avg. Burden per Response (In Hrs.)	Total Burden Hours	Avg. Hourly Wage Rate	Total Burden Costs
Organizational Statement (§1910.156(b)(1))	1,277	1	1,277	2	2,554	\$57.39	\$146,574
Physician Certification (§ 1910.156(b)(1))	25,546	0.10001	2,555	5/60	213	\$57.39	\$12,224
Unduplicated Totals	25,546⁴	--	3,832	--	2,767	--	\$158,798

⁴ As noted earlier in Item 12 of this Supporting Statement, this ICR estimates 25,546 unduplicated employer respondents.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- **The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of service component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**
- **If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondent (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission**

public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.

- **Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

The cost determined under Item 12 accounts for the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from these collection of information requirements. Therefore, there is no cost to the respondent other than their time.

14. Provide estimates of the annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 into a single table.

There is no cost to the Federal Government.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

The Agency is requesting an adjustment increase in burden hours from 2,693 to 2,767, a total increase of 74 hours. The adjustment is due to an increase in the estimated number of manufacturing facilities with 100 or more workers from 24,856 to 25,546.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation, and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

OSHA will not publish the information collected under the Standard.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be appropriate.

OSHA lists current valid control numbers in §§1910.8, 1915.8, 1917.4, 1918.4, and 1926.5 and publishes the expiration date in the Federal Register notice announcing OMB approval of the information collection requirement. (See 5 CFR 1320.3(f)(3).) OSHA believes that this is the most appropriate and accurate mechanism to inform interested parties of these expiration dates.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

OSHA is not requesting an exception to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This supporting statement does not contain any collection of information requirements that employ statistical methods. We do, however, show the calculations of the requested number of burden hours for Organizational Statement (§ 1910.156(b)(1)) and Physician Certification (§ 1910.156(b)(1)) as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Requested Burden Hours			
Information Collection Requirement	Current Burden Hours	Requested Burden Hours	Adjustment
(A) Organizational Statement (§ 1910.156(b)(1))	2,486	2,554	68
(B) Physician Certification (§ 1910.156(b)(1))	207	213	6
TOTALS	2,693	2,767	74