

or combustible liquids or gases (§ 1915.13(b)(10));

- Ensure that confined and enclosed spaces and other dangerous atmospheres, and boundaries of spaces or pipelines are tested before workers perform hot work in these work areas (§ 1915.14(a)(1));
- Post warnings of testing conducted by competent persons and certificates of testing conducted by a Marine Chemist or Coast Guard authorized person in the immediate vicinity of the hot-work operation while the operation is in progress (§§ 1915.14(a) and (b)); and
- Retain certificates of testing on file for at least three months after completing the operation (§ 1915.14(a)(2)).

## 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, 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.

## III. Proposed Actions

OSHA is requesting that OMB extend the approval of the collection of information (paperwork) requirements mandated by Subpart A ("General Provisions") and Subpart B ("Confined and Enclosed Spaces and Other Dangerous Atmospheres in Shipyard Employment") of 29 CFR part 1915. The agency is requesting an adjustment decrease of 19,246 burden hours (from 586,064 to 566,818 hours). The adjustment decrease is due to a decrease in the number of establishments affected by these standards.

The agency will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice and will include this summary in the request to OMB.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Subpart A ("General Provisions") and Subpart B ("Confined and Enclosed Spaces and Other Dangerous Atmospheres in Shipyard Employment") (29 CFR part 1915).

*OMB Control Number:* 1218-0011.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profits; Not-for-profit organizations;

Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,716.

*Frequency of Responses:* On occasion.

*Total Responses:* 3,555,305.

*Average Time per Response:* Various.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 566,818.

*Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance):* \$0.

## IV. Public Participation—Submission of Comments on this Notice and Internet Access to Comments and Submissions

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows:

(1) Electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal; (2) by facsimile (fax); or (3) by hard copy. *Please note:* While OSHA's Docket Office is continuing to accept and process submissions by regular mail, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Docket Office is closed to the public and not able to receive submissions to the docket by hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service. All comments, attachments, and other material must identify the agency name and the OSHA docket number (Docket No. OSHA-2011-0034) for the ICR. You may supplement electronic submissions by uploading document files electronically. If you wish to mail additional materials in reference to an electronic or facsimile submission, you must submit them to the OSHA Docket Office (see the section of this notice titled **ADDRESSES**). The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments by your name, date, and the docket number so the agency can attach them to your comments. Because of security procedures, the use of regular mail may cause a significant delay in the receipt of comments.

Comments and submissions are posted without change at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and date of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from this website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> website to submit comments and access the docket is available at the website's "User Tips" link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350, (TTY) (877) 889-5627 for information about materials not

available from the website, and for assistance in using the internet to locate docket submissions.

## V. Authority and Signature

Loren Sweatt, Principal Deputy 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 *et seq.*) and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 1-2012 (77 FR 3912).

Signed at Washington, DC, on December 18, 2020.

**Loren Sweatt,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. 2020-28371 Filed 12-22-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-26-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2011-0056]

#### Voluntary Protection Programs Information; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements

**AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA solicits public comments concerning the proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements contained in Voluntary Protection Programs Information.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted (postmarked, sent, or received) by February 22, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Electronically:* You may submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments.

*Facsimile:* If your comments, including attachments, are not longer than 10 pages, you may fax them to the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-1648.

*Mail, hand delivery, express mail, messenger, or courier service:* When using this method, you must submit a copy of your comments and attachments to the OSHA Docket Office, OSHA Docket No. OSHA-2011-0056, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of

Labor, Room N-3653, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210. Please note: While OSHA's Docket Office is continuing to accept and process submissions by regular mail, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Docket Office is closed to the public and not able to receive submissions to the docket by hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service.

**Instructions:** All submissions must include the agency name and the OSHA docket number (OSHA-2011-0056) for the Information Collection Request (ICR). All comments, including any personal information you provide, such as social security numbers and date of birth, are placed in the public docket without change, and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For further information on submitting comments see the "Public Participation" heading in the section of this notice titled

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**Docket:** To read or download comments or other material in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or the OSHA Docket Office at the above address. All documents in the docket (including this **Federal Register** notice) are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from the website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. You may also contact Theda Kenney at the below phone number to obtain a copy of the ICR.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Seleda Perryman or Theda Kenney, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone (202) 693-2222.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of the 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) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA's estimate of information collection burden is accurate. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of

1970 (OSH Act) (29 U.S.C. 651 *et seq.*) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the OSH Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657).

The Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) [47 FR 29025], adopted by OSHA, established the efficacy of cooperative action among government, industry, and labor to address employee safety and health issues and to expand employee protection. To qualify, employers must meet OSHA's safety and health management criteria which focus on comprehensive management programs and active employee involvement to prevent or control worksite safety and health hazards. Employers who qualify generally view OSHA standards as a minimum level of safety and health performance, and set their own more stringent standards, wherever necessary, to improve employee protection. Prospective VPP worksites must submit an application that includes:

- General applicant information (e.g., site, corporate, and collective bargaining contact information).
- Injury and illness rate performance information (i.e., number of employees and/or applicable contractors on-site, type of work performed and products produced, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and Recordable Injury and Illness Case Incidence Rate information).
- Safety and health management program information (i.e., description of the applicant's safety and health management programs) including how the programs successfully addresses management leadership and employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training OSHA uses this information to determine whether an applicant is ready for a VPP on-site evaluation and as a verification tool during VPP on-site evaluations. Without this information, OSHA would be unable to determine which sites are ready for VPP status.

Each current VPP applicant is also required to submit an annual evaluation which addresses how that applicant is continuing the adherence to programmatic requirements. In 2008, OSHA modified procedures for VPP applicants, OSHA on-site evaluation, and annual participant self-evaluation for applicants/participants subject to OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) Standard. Applicants that perform works that use or produce highly hazardous chemical exceeding specified limits covered under the PSM

standard must submit responses to the PSM application supplement along with their VPP application.

Once in the VPP, the participant is required to submit an annual evaluation detailing the continued adherence to programmatic requirements. Applicants covered under the PSM standard are required to submit a PSM questionnaire a supplemental document as part of their annual submission. OSHA needs this information to ensure that the participant remains qualified to participate in the VPP between the on-site evaluations. Without this information, OSHA would be unable to determine whether applicants are maintaining excellent safety and health management programs during this interim period.

In 2009, with the publication of the **Federal Register** Notice (FRN), VPP revised the traditional focus on individual fixed worksites (site-based) by adding two new ways to participate: mobile workforce and corporate. A significant reorganization of the program helps clarify the multiple participation options now available.

Employees of VPP participants may apply to participate in the Special Government Employee (SGE) Program. The SGE Program offers private and public sector safety and health professionals and other qualified participants the opportunity to exchange ideas, gain new perspectives, and grow professionally while serving as full-fledged team members on OSHA's VPP on-site evaluations. In that capacity, SGEs may review company documents, assist with worksite walkthroughs, interview employees, and assist in preparing VPP on-site evaluation reports. Potential SGEs must submit an application that includes:

- SGE Eligibility Information Sheet (i.e., applicant's name, professional credentials, site/corporate contact information, etc.);
- Current Resume;
- Optional Application for Federal Employment OF-612; and
- Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450).

OSHA uses the SGE Eligibility Information Sheet to ensure that the potential SGE works at a VPP site and meets the minimum eligibility qualifications. The resume is required to provide a detailed description of their current duties and responsibilities as they relate to safety and health and the implementation of an effective safety and health management program. The OGE Form 450 is used to ensure that SGEs do not participate on on-site evaluations at VPP sites where they have a financial interest.

OSHA Challenge is designed to reach and guide employers and companies in all major industry groups who are strongly committed to improving their safety and health management programs and possibly pursuing recognition in the VPP. The Challenge Administrators application is used to: (1) Conduct a preliminary analysis of the applicant's knowledge of safety and health management programs; and (2) make a determination regarding the applicant's qualifications to become a Challenge Administrator. Once a Challenge Administrator is approved, the Administrator will review each challenge candidate's application/annual submissions to ensure that all necessary information is provided, prior to forwarding to OSHA's National Office for acceptance and analysis.

## II. Special Issues for Comment

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

- Whether the information collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of the agency'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.

## III. Proposed Actions

OSHA is requesting an adjustment decrease of 363 burden hours from 90,863 to 90,500 hours. The decrease is primarily due to the lack of Challenge participation, and lack of training of new SGE applicants and re-approval training of existing SGEs due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 imposed on all OSHA Cooperative Programs.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Voluntary Protection Programs Information.

*OMB Control Number:* 1218-0239.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profits.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,052.

*Total Respondents:* 3,601.

*Frequency:* Various.

*Estimated Total Total Burden Hours:* 90,500.

*Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance):* \$0.

## IV. Public Participation—Submission of Comments on This Notice and internet Access to Comments and Submissions

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows:

(1) Electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal; (2) by facsimile (fax); or (3) by hard copy. *Please note:* While OSHA's Docket Office is continuing to accept and process submissions by regular mail, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Docket Office is closed to the public and not able to receive submissions to the docket by hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service. All comments, attachments, and other material must identify the agency name and the OSHA docket number for the ICR (Docket No. OSHA-2011-0056). You may supplement electronic submissions by uploading document files electronically. If you wish to mail additional materials in reference to an electronic or facsimile submission, you must submit them to the OSHA Docket Office (see the section of this notice titled **ADDRESSES**). The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments by your name, date, and the docket number so the agency can attach them to your comments.

Because of security procedures, the use of regular mail may cause a significant delay in the receipt of comments.

Comments and submissions are posted without change at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and date of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through this website.

All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> website to submit comments and access the docket is available at the website's "User Tips" link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350, (TTY) (877) 889-5627 for information about materials not available through the website, and for assistance in using the internet to locate docket submissions. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about materials not available through the website, and for assistance in using the internet to locate docket submissions.

## V. Authority and Signature

Loren Sweatt, Principal Deputy 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. 1-2012 (77 FR 3912).

Signed at Washington, DC, on December 17, 2020.

**Loren Sweatt,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. 2020-28330 Filed 12-22-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-26-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Proposed Extension of Existing Collection; Agreement and Undertaking (OWCP-1)

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor (DOL) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed extension for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, "Agreement and Undertaking." This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all written comments received by February 22, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation, including a description of the likely respondents, proposed frequency of responses, and estimated total burden, may be obtained for free by contacting Anjanette Suggs by telephone at 202-354-9660 or by email at [suggs.anjanette@dol.gov](mailto:suggs.anjanette@dol.gov).

Submit written comments about, or requests for a copy of, this ICR by mail or courier to the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Workers' Compensation Program, Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, Room S3323, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210; by email: [suggs.anjanette@dol.gov](mailto:suggs.anjanette@dol.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Anjanette Suggs by telephone at 202-354-9660 or by email at [suggs.anjanette@dol.gov](mailto:suggs.anjanette@dol.gov).