

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR THE  
INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS  
IN THE STANDARD ON BLASTING AND THE USE  
OF EXPLOSIVES (29 CFR PART 1926, SUBPART U)<sup>1</sup>  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
(OMB) CONTROL NUMBER 1218-0217  
(January 2025)**

The agency is seeking an extension of a currently approved data collection.

**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). The Act states further that “[t]he Secretary . . . shall prescribe such rules and regulations as [he/she] may deem necessary to carry out [his/her] responsibilities under this Act, including rules and regulations dealing with the inspection of an employer’s establishment” (29 U.S.C. 651).

To protect employee health, the OSH Act authorizes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA” or “agency”) to develop standards that provide for “monitoring or measuring employee exposure” to occupational hazards and “prescribe the type and frequency of medical examinations and other tests which shall be made available [by the employer] to employees exposed to such hazards . . . to most effectively determine whether the health of such employees is adversely affected by such exposure” (29 U.S.C. 655). Moreover, the Act directs OSHA to “issue regulations requiring employers to maintain accurate records of employee exposures to potentially toxic materials or other harmful physical agents which are required to be monitored and measured . . . ” (29 U.S.C. 657). In addition, the OSH Act mandates that “[e]ach employer shall make, keep and preserve, and make available to the Secretary [of Labor] . . . such records regarding [the employer’s] 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). The Act authorizes the agency to issue standards that “prescribe use of labels or other appropriate forms of warning as are necessary to insure that employees are apprised of all hazards to which they are exposed, relevant

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<sup>1</sup>The purpose of this Supporting Statement is to analyze and describe the burden hours and costs associated with provisions of this Subpart that contain paperwork requirements; this Supporting Statement does not provide information or guidance on how to comply with, or how to enforce, these provisions.

symptoms and appropriate emergency treatment, and proper conditions and precautions of safe use or exposure” (29 U.S.C. 655). Additionally, the OSH Act mandates that “[e]ach employer shall make, keep and preserve, and make available to the Secretary . . . such records . . . as the Secretary . . . may prescribe by regulation as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of this Act . . .” (29 U.S.C. 657).

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

Subpart U contains several information collection requirements. Each of the following paragraphs lists and describes the information collection requirements contained in Subpart U, Blasting Operations.

**§ 1926.900(d)**

The employer must ensure that explosives not in use are kept in a locked magazine and are unavailable to persons not authorized to handle the explosives. The employer must maintain an inventory and use record of all explosives; in use and not in use. The employer must contact the appropriate authorities in the event of loss, theft, or unauthorized entry into a magazine.

This requirement ensures that all explosives are accounted for and that they are being kept in a safe and secure place, away from unauthorized users. This level of control is necessary to prevent unintended or unlawful withdrawal and detonation of explosives, as well as any resultant injuries to and fatalities of working men and women.

The language was adopted from ANSI M28.1 – 1969, paragraph 7.1.5 (modified) and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before OSHA’s creation and continuing through today. Storage and inventory requirements are also found under the Treasury Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in 27 CFR 555.

**§ 1926.900(i)**

Employees authorized to prepare explosive charges or conduct blasting operations shall use every reasonable precaution including, but not limited to, visual and audible warning signals, flags, or barricades, to ensure employee safety.

OSHA does not believe this imposes a burden since employers may use physical means such as barricades, which is not a collection of information, to ensure worker safety. In addition, this language was adopted from ANSI A10.7-1970, paragraph 6.1.8 and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before OSHA’s creation and continuing through today.

**§1926.900(k)(3)(i)**

Employers must prominently display adequate signs warning against the use of mobile radio transmitters on all roads within 1,000 feet of blasting operations. Whenever adherence to the 1,000-foot distance would create an operational handicap, a competent person shall be consulted to evaluate the particular situation, and alternative provisions may be made which are adequately designed to prevent any premature firing of electric blasting caps. A description of any such alternatives shall be reduced to writing and shall be certified as meeting the purposes of this subdivision by the competent person consulted. The description shall be maintained at the construction site during the duration of the work, and shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Secretary of Labor.

This information is needed to protect the working men and women from exposure to premature detonation of blasting agents on roadside construction projects. The language was adopted from ANSI A10.7-1970, paragraph 6.1.13 (2 & 3) (modified) and reflects the national consensus standards. In addition, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices-2012, including errata (MUTCD) at chapter 6F paragraph 6F. 41, 42 and 43, requires signs specifying "Blasting Zone Ahead," "End of Blasting Zone," and "Turn Off 2-way Radio and Phone." For the most part, the usual and customary industry practice described above includes reliance on competent experts to do the radio frequency energy propagation hazard analysis. However, in cases involving alternative methods, OSHA requires the methods be certified in writing and, therefore, the agency takes a burden hour charge for those few occasions.

**§ 1926.900(o)**

Employers must notify the operators and/or owners when blasting operations are in the proximity of overhead power lines, communication lines, utility lines, or other services and structures in order to protect working men and women from the unintended damage and collapse of, as well as contact with, such things. Blasting operations shall not be carried on until measures for safe control have been taken.

This provision is necessary to protect working men and women from the hazards associated with the unintended destruction of power, communication, and utility lines, as well as other related services and structures.

OSHA believes that this requirement does not create an additional burden on employers. The language was adopted from ANSI A10.7 (1970), paragraph 6.1.10 (modified) and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today. Similar language is also found in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regulation, EM 385-1-1, section 25.A.6 of 03/1967.

**§ 1926.901(d)**

Blasters shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of competency in handling explosives and performing, in a safe manner, the type of blasting that will be required. This

requirement is of primary importance for protecting working men and women including the blasters themselves when construction work involves the use of explosives and blasting agents.

OSHA believes that this requirement creates no additional burden on employers. It is usual and customary for employers to obtain the assurances discussed in this section from blasters as a condition of employment. This language came from ANSI A10.7 (1970), paragraph 6.2.5 and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today.

**§ 1926.902(h)**

Employers must ensure that every vehicle or conveyance used for transporting explosives shall be marked or placarded on both sides, the front, and the rear with the word "Explosives" in red letters. The lettering shall be placed on a white background and be not less than 4 inches in height. In addition to the marking or placarding, the motor vehicle or conveyance may display a red flag, readily visible in all directions, 18 inches by 30 inches, with the word "explosives" painted, stamped, or sewed thereon, in white letters, at least 6 inches in height.

These markings and placards serve to warn workers, who may otherwise not know, that they are entering an area where explosives are present or working next to a vehicle used to transport explosives on their construction site. OSHA does not believe this is a collection of information since the Standard provides specific information to the employer to disclose to the public (5 CFR 1320.3(c)(1)).

This language was adopted from ANSI A10.7-1970, paragraph 4.1.4 and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today. This language is also found in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulation, EM 385-1-1 section 25.D.02 of 03/1967 (modified).

**§ 1926.903(d)**

The employer must notify the hoist operator prior to transporting explosives or blasting agents in a shaft conveyance. Notification ensures that the hoist operator uses all necessary precautions when transporting explosives and blasting agents thus preventing accidental explosions and injuries.

This requirement is necessary to protect working men and women, including hoist operators, from the hazards associated with moving explosives on hoists. This requirement was adopted from ANSI A10.7-1970, paragraph 4.2.4 and reflects the national consensus, as well as the usual and customary industry practices, in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today. The agency has received no information describing the frequency of this occurrence other than it was extremely limited.

Additionally, OSHA's underground construction standard, **§ 1926.800(e) Notification**, facilitates the notice required in § 1926.903(d). The underground construction standard states that: "Oncoming shifts shall be informed of any hazardous occurrences or conditions that have affected or might affect employee safety [...]" (§ 1926.800(e)) and "the employer shall establish and maintain direct communications for coordination of activities with other employers whose operations at the jobsite affect or may affect the safety of employees underground (§1926.800(e)(2))."

### **§1926.903(e)**

Employers must perform weekly inspections on the electrical system of trucks used for underground transportation of explosives. The weekly inspection is to detect any failure in the system which would constitute an electrical hazard. The most recent certification of inspection must be maintained and must include the date of inspection, a serial number or other identifier of the truck inspected, and the signature of the person performing the inspection.

This requirement is necessary to protect workers underground from electrical system hazards associated with underground transportation of explosives in trucks.

This language was adopted from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulation EM 385-1-1 section 25.D.03 of 03/1967. Additionally, similar requirements date to ANSI A10.7-1970, section Chapter 4. Transportation of Explosives, which reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before OSHA's creation and for the most part continuing through today. Paragraph 4.1.6 (1) reads "[A motor vehicle used for transporting explosives shall meet the following requirements: (1) All electrical wiring shall be completely protected and securely fastened to prevent short-circuiting. [...]" The agency has received no information, anecdotal or otherwise, suggesting its estimate of only one project a year using trucks to transport explosives underground is erroneous. It has received anecdotal suggestions that the industry has not used trucks widely for explosives' Transportation for decades and rarely use trucks in this manner underground today.

### **§ 1926.903(m)**

Each powder car or conveyance built for the purpose of transporting explosives and blasting agents shall bear a reflectorized sign on each side with the word "Explosives" in letters, not less than 4 inches in height; upon a background of sharply contrasting color.

These signs serve to warn workers, who may otherwise not know, that explosives and blasting agents are present.

OSHA does not believe that this paragraph falls in the range of a collection of information since the Standard provides specific information to the employer (5 CFR 1320.3(c)(1)) for protecting working men and women on the site.

In addition, this language was adopted from ANSI A10.1-1970, paragraph 4.2.11 and reflects

the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practice in existence since before OSHA's creation and continuing through today.

**§ 1926.905(a)**

Procedures that permit safe and efficient loading shall be established before loading is started.

This requirement ensures the protection of men and women working on construction sites where blasting operations are conducted.

OSHA believes that this requirement is essential to worker protection and safe blasting operations while imposing no Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) burden. It is usual and customary for blasting employers to have the required procedures in place as part of their knowledge, practice, and experience. This language was adopted from ANSI A10.7 (1970), paragraph 6.3.1 and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today.

**§ 1926.905(p)**

Paragraph (p) requires the employer to post warning signs indicating a blast area. These signs must be maintained at all approaches to the blast area. The warning sign lettering shall not be less than 4 inches in height on a contrasting background.

OSHA does not believe this is a collection of information since the Standard provides sufficient information to the employer (5 CFR 1320.3(c)(1)) for protecting working men and women on the site.

This requirement ensures the protection of men and women working on construction sites where blasting operations are conducted. The language was adopted from ANSI A10.7-1970, paragraph 6.3.16 and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today.

**§ 1926.905(t)**

Under § 1926.905(t), the employer's blaster must maintain an accurate and up-to-date record of explosives, blasting agents, and blasting supplies used in a blast. In addition, the blaster must also maintain a running inventory of all explosives and blasting agents stored on the operation. These records will ensure that all explosives, blasting agents, and blasting supplies are accounted for. This requirement is necessary to protect working men and women in the proximity of blasting operations from hazards of misplaced explosives, the unintended detonation of duds, and the hazards of temporary storage of explosives; however, it imposes no burden.

This requirement was adopted from language in ANSI A10.7 (1970), paragraph 6.3.20 and

reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today. In addition, the Department of the Treasury and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms require inventory and recordkeeping at 27 CFR 555. Section 107 requires that a licensee or permittee keep records of explosive materials as required by subpart G, *Records and Reports* of this part, and section 127 requires them to maintain a daily summary of magazine transactions (27 CFR 555.107 & 127).

**§ 1926.909(a)**

Employers must post a code of blasting signals, similar to Table U-1 below, on one or more conspicuous places at the operation. Additionally, all workers shall familiarize themselves with the code and conform to it at all times. Danger signs shall also be placed at suitable locations.

TABLE U-1

WARNING SIGNAL – A 1-minute series of long blasts 5 minutes prior to blast signal.

BLASTING SIGNAL – A series of short blasts 1 minute prior to the shot.

ALL CLEAR SIGNAL – A prolonged blast following the inspection of blast area.

OSHA does not believe this is a collection of information since the Standard provides specific information to the employer for disclosure (5 CFR 1320.3(c)(1)) to workers in proximity to blasting operations.

Further, the posting of blasting signals and dangers signs are adopted from ANSI A10.7–1970, paragraph 7.1 and reflects the national consensus as well as the usual and customary industry practices in existence since before the time of OSHA's creation and continuing through today. Therefore, the agency is not taking burden hours or costs for these provisions.

**§ 1926.912 Underwater blasting (d)**

No blast shall be fired while any vessel under way is closer than 1,500 feet to the blasting area. Those on board vessels or craft moored or anchored within 1,500 feet shall be notified before a blast is fired.

**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 burden.**

Employers may use any available technology to establish and maintain the documents specified by the Subpart. The agency wrote the paperwork requirements in performance-oriented

language, i.e., in terms of what data to collect and 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 Item A.2. above.**

OSHA has examined related information collection requirements of other agencies involved in the regulation of explosives and has determined that OSHA's information collection requirements in this Subpart do not require the employer to duplicate information requested by other agencies. The information collection requirements of the Subpart U are specific to each employer involved, and the required information is available only from the parties designated in the Subpart U

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

The information collection requirements specified by the Subpart U are relatively minor to many small entities.

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

The agency believes that the information collection frequencies required by the Subpart U 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 information collection required by 29 CFR part 1926, Subpart U, or delay in providing this information, workers are at risk of serious injuries or death while performing construction work with explosives or around blasting operations.

**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 a 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 demonstrate 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 in the manner or using the procedures specified by this item; the paperwork requirements in the Subpart conform to 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 may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.**

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), OSHA published a notice in the Federal Register on October 25, 2024 (89 FR 85242) soliciting comments on its proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's approval of the information collection requirements specified by the Blasting and the Use of Explosives (29 CFR part 1926, subpart U) under docket number OSHA 2011-0747. This notice is a part of a preclearance consultation program that provides the general public and government agencies with an opportunity to comment. The agency did not receive any public comments in response to this

notice.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment of 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 Subpart U 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 paperwork requirements specified by the Subpart do not involve 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.**
- **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

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 Wage Statistics (OEWS)*, May 2023 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates (OEWS data is available at [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm). (accessed: September 11, 2024) . To access a wage rate, select the year, “Occupation profiles,” and the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code.)

To account for fringe benefits, the agency used the [Employer Costs for Employee Compensation – September 2024 \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.pdf) *Occupational Employment Wage Statistics (OEWS)*. Fringe markup is from the following BLS release: *Employer Costs for Employee Compensation* news release text; For release, June 2024 at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ecec.pdf>. BLS reported that fringe benefits accounted for 29.7 percent of total compensation for civilian workers, and wages accounted for the remaining 70.3 percent.

**Table 1 – Wage Rate Estimates with Fringe Benefits**

WAGE-HOUR ESTIMATES				
Occupational Title	SOC Code	Mean Hourly Wage Rate (A)	Fringe Benefits (B)	Loaded Hourly Wage Rate C= (A/1-B)
1 <sup>st</sup> Line Supervisor/Construction Supervisor	47-1011	\$39.11	29.7%	\$55.63
Construction worker/laborer	47-2061	\$23.69	29.7%	\$33.70
Clerical	43-6014	\$21.87	29.7%	\$31.11

### § 1926.900(k)(3)(i)

This section requires a prominent roadside display of adequate warning signs against the use of mobile transmitters. If the signs are infeasible, a certified alternative method must be developed to prevent premature detonation. OSHA staff familiar with this industry has estimated that there would be 3,000 construction employers with sites where blasting operations are covered by the Standard.

Also, the agency had received informal, oral reports or anecdotal estimates from experienced industry representatives that the number of construction sites involving blasting operations fluctuates between 10,000 and 50,000 sites annually. In response to the 2012 Preclearance Federal Register notice and subsequent notices requesting public comment on the Blasting and Use of Explosive paperwork analysis, OSHA received no comments confirming or challenging

these figures. Recent industry anecdotal estimates put the number of jobs involving explosives at or below 5,000 a year. More recently, industry representatives estimated that, because of the nature of construction projects, the improved power of equipment, and construction methods, only 1,000–1,200 projects a year involve blasting or using explosives.

No matter the magnitude of the number of sites using explosives, the subset of that number where signage would create an operational handicap and require the employer to consult a competent person who creates and certifies an alternative remains extremely small. Technology has evolved since the time this requirement was first promulgated. The agency continues to receive informal industry appraisals indicating that most blasting operations involve blasting methods for which mobile transmitters would generally not be a hazard.

For purposes of this ICR, OSHA is adjusting the number of affected sites based on the general increase in construction over the past three years. The estimated increase in construction is based on the percentage increase in construction new start spending published by McGraw Hill Construction in its Dodge Construction Outlook. According to this source, construction increased by an estimated 20.6% over the past three years.

By applying this percentage increase to the 160 sites a year used previously, OSHA estimates that 193 projects per year would require a competent person to develop and certify alternative procedures to alleviate the operational handicap.

The estimated increase in construction is based on the percentage increase in construction new start spending published by McGraw Hill Construction in its Dodge Construction Outlook 2014, Executive Summary page 2, table “The Pattern of U.S. Construction Starts.” The table indicated that new start spending increased from 2021 to 2022 by 8%, from 2022 to 2023 by -1%, and from 2023 to 2024 by -19%. As with the review this year in 2021, the review in 2024

By applying the percentage increases to 160 sites a year, OSHA conservatively estimates that 201 projects rounded up per year would require a competent person to develop and certify alternative procedures to alleviate the operational handicap.  $(160 \times 8\% = 173) + (173 \times -1\% = 171)$ .

OSHA estimates that developing and certifying an alternative plan takes eight hours. Filing the plan and maintaining it on site (clerical functions taking a minimum amount of time) would require two minutes.

- a. Construction 1<sup>st</sup> line Supervisor:

**Burden hours to create and certify:** 171 sites x 8 hours = 1,368 hours

**Cost:** 1,368 hours x \$55.63 = \$76,102

- b. Clerical Worker:

**Burden hours to file and maintain:** 171 sites x 2/60 hours = 6 hours rounded

**Cost:** 6 hours x \$31.11 = \$187

**Total Burden hours:** 1,368 hours (create/certify) + 6 hours (maintain) = 1,374 hours

**Total Costs:** \$76,102 (create/certify) + \$187 (maintain) = \$76,289

### §1926.903(e)

Paragraph (e) requires the employer to perform weekly inspections of the electrical systems of trucks used for underground transportation of explosives and maintain the most recent certification record.

The agency estimates that there are only a few instances of using a truck to transport explosives underground. Modern technology (for example, tunnel boring machines) replaced an increasing percentage of underground construction where drill and blast methods were once used. As with tunnel construction haulage (small gauge rail trains), these machines have rails behind them for material haulage rail cars or conveyors. OSHA estimates that four jobs might use trucks to haul explosives underground. The agency estimates a truck mechanic takes 10 minutes a week to have the truck's electrical system checked and to prepare the certification records. Upon inspection, filing and maintaining the most recent certified inspection record takes five minutes per week. Therefore, the employer spends 15 minutes weekly to check the electrical system and to prepare, file, and maintain the necessary certification.

a. Construction Worker:

**Burden hours:** 4 jobs x 52 weeks x 10/60 hours = 35 hours (rounded)  
(check and certify fitness)

**Cost:** 35 hours x \$33.70 = \$1,180 (check and certify electrical fitness)

b. Clerical Worker:

**Burden hours:** 4 jobs x 52 weeks x 5/60 hours = 17 hours (rounded) (file and maintain most recent electrical check record)

**Cost:** 17 hours x \$31.11 = \$529 (file and maintain records)

**Total Burden hours:** 35 hours (check/certify) + 17 hours (maintain) = 52 hours

**Total Costs:** \$1,180 (check/verify) + \$529 (file/maintain) = \$1,709

Below is a summary of the annual burden hour and cost estimates for the subpart's two

paragraphs containing paperwork requirements described under Item 2 above.

OSHA is not listing those collections of information that are usual and customary under Item 12 since these provisions do not create an additional burden on employers.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Rules implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act are found at 5 CFR Part 1320. 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(2) states, “The time, effort and financial recourse necessary to comply with a collection of information that would be incurred by a person in the normal course of their activities will be excluded from the definition of “burden” if the Agency demonstrates that the reporting, recordkeeping, or disclosure activities needed to comply are usual and customary.”

BLASTING AND THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES AND THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES

OMB Control Number: 1218-0217

Expiration Date: March 31,2025

<b>Table 2 Estimated Annualized Respondent Hour and Cost Burden</b>								
<b>Information Collection Requirement</b>	<b>Type of Respondent</b>	<b>Respondents*</b>	<b>Responses per Respondent</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Time per Response</b>	<b>Burden Hours</b>	<b>Loaded Hourly Wage</b>	<b>Burden Cost</b>
<b>§1926.900(k)(3)(i)</b> Written Alternative method	Construction Supervisor	171	1	171	8	1,368	\$55.63	\$76,102
	Clerical worker	171	1	171	2/60	6	\$31.11	\$187
<b>§1926.903(e)</b> Weekly Inspection Records	Construction worker	4	52	208	10/60	35	\$33.70	\$1,180
	Clerical worker	4	52	208	5/60	17	\$31.11	\$529
<b>Totals</b>			--	<b>758</b>		<b>1,426</b>	--	<b>\$77,998</b>

**\*The total number of respondents is 171.**

**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 services 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 respondents (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.**
- **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 respondents (fewer than 10), use 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.**

Costs under this item for complying with the information collection requirements of the Standard are set forth under Item 12.

**14. Provide estimates of 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 in a single table.**

There is no cost to the Federal Government associated with this information collection request. The disclosure of records during an inspection is not subject to the PRA under 5 CFR 1320.4(a) (2). OSHA would only review records in the context of an open investigation of a particular employer to determine compliance with the Standard. Therefore, OSHA takes no burden or cost in this Supporting Statement for disclosing information during an inspection.

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

The agency is requesting an adjustment decrease in the burden hours from 1,602 to 1,426 hours, a difference of 176 hours. This decrease is due to a decrease in the number of affected sites affected by the current economic conditions. (The available data for this ICR was derived from 2022 and 2023 fiscal year.)

**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 seeking an exception to the certification statement.

**B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS.**

This supporting statement does not contain any collection of information requirements that employ statistical methods.