

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPPTS-00195; FRL-5393-7]

**Agency Information Collection Activities****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Requests (ICRs) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before submitting the ICRs to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the information collections described below. The ICRs are: (1) A continuing ICR entitled "Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Manufacturing, Processing and Distribution in Commerce Exemptions," EPA ICR No. 0857, OMB No. 2070-0021, and (2) a continuing ICR entitled "Lead-Based Paint Abatement and Repair and Maintenance Study in Baltimore," EPA ICR No. 1603, OMB No. 2070-0123. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before November 12, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit three copies of all written comments to: TSCA Document Receipts (7407), Rm. NE-G99, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202-260-7099. All comments should be identified by the respective administrative record numbers: comments on ICR No. 0857 should reference administrative record number 163, and comments on ICR No. 1603 should reference administrative record number 164. These ICRs are available for public review at, and copies may be requested from, the docket address and telephone number listed above.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All

comments and data in electronic form with respect to ICR No. 0857 must be identified by the administrative record number AR-163 and ICR 0857. All comments and data in electronic form with respect to ICR No. 1603 must be identified by the administrative record number AR-164 and ICR 1603. No CBI should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found in Unit III. of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information contact: Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202-554-1404, TDD: 202-554-0551, e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov. For technical information contact the following individuals:

For ICR No. 0857 contact Geraldine Hilton, Chemical Management Division (7404), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202-260-3992, Fax: 202-260-1724, e-mail: hilton.geraldine@epamail.epa.gov.

For ICR No. 1603 contact Benjamin Lim, Chemical Management Division (7404), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202-260-1509, Fax: 202-260-3453, e-mail: lim.benjamin@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Electronic Availability: Electronic copies of the ICR are available from the EPA Public Access gopher (gopher.epa.gov) at the Environmental Sub-Set entry for this document under "Rules and Regulations."

**I. Background**

Entities potentially affected by this action are: with respect to ICR No. 0857, those persons who petition EPA for exemptions from the prohibition on the manufacture, processing and distribution in commerce of polychlorinated biphenyls, and with respect to ICR No. 1603, those private households in Baltimore, Maryland, that are participating in an ongoing EPA-sponsored survey to investigate abatement practices and low-cost, practical repair and maintenance approaches with respect to lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust in residential housing. For the collection of

information addressed in this notice, EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

(iv) 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.

**II. Information Collections**

EPA is seeking comments on two ICRs, which are identified and discussed separately below.

**Title:** Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Manufacturing, Processing and Distribution in Commerce Exemptions, EPA ICR No. 0857, OMB No. 2070-0021, expires May 31, 1997.

**Abstract:** Section 6(e)(3)(A) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) prohibits the manufacture, processing and distribution in commerce of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). TSCA section 6(e)(3)(B) provides that any person may petition EPA for an exemption from these prohibitions and that EPA may grant such an exemption for a 1-year period if (1) An unreasonable risk of injury to health or environment would not result, and (2) good-faith efforts have been made to develop a substitute chemical substance for PCBs that does not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.

Interim Procedural Rules at 40 CFR part 750, subparts B and C outline the procedures for filing exemption petitions, the procedures that EPA will follow when a petition is submitted and the procedures for filing a request to renew an exemption previously granted. Under these rules, EPA may request information from each petitioner to determine whether the petitioner meets the statutory requirements to qualify for an exemption.

Responses to the collection of information are mandatory (see 40 CFR part 750). Respondents may claim all or part of a notice confidential. However, if a petition is claimed confidential, a sanitized version must also be provided

for inclusion in the public docket. EPA will disclose information that is covered by a claim of confidentiality only to the extent permitted by, and in accordance with, the procedures in TSCA section 14 and 40 CFR part 2.

**Burden Statement:** The burden to respondents for complying with this ICR is estimated to total 15 hours per year, with an annual cost of \$746. These totals are based on an average burden ranging from 2 to 8 hours per response for an estimated three respondents making one response annually. These estimates include the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

**Title:** Lead-Based Paint Abatement and Repair and Maintenance Study in Baltimore, EPA ICR No. 1603, OMB No. 2070-0123, expires January 31, 1997.

**Abstract:** Prevention of childhood lead poisoning is a high priority for EPA. EPA's lead abatement program is predicated on the need for a comprehensive national approach to reducing exposure to and hazards from lead, particularly among children. Children are uniquely susceptible to permanent and irreversible neurological damage from exposure to lead. Although lead poisoning is one of the most serious environmental threats to children in this country, it is also one of the most preventable.

The EPA is sponsoring a study of private households in Baltimore, Maryland, to investigate lead-based paint abatement practices. Low-cost practical repair and maintenance approaches to the problem of lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust in U.S. housing will also be examined. Repair and maintenance practices may provide a means of reducing lead exposure for future generations of children who occupy older housing that cannot be fully abated or rehabilitated.

From each study household EPA is periodically collecting both environmental and biological samples as well as questionnaire data over a 3-year period. EPA is collecting samples of interior surface dust, exterior soil, and drinking water from study dwellings for lead analysis, as well as

collecting blood for lead analysis from children living in study dwellings. A structured questionnaire is being used to collect relevant data on occupational, behavioral, and housing characteristics that can influence lead exposure.

EPA will use this study to evaluate low-cost lead abatement strategies. The study findings will also be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in preparing a report to Congress. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will use the study findings to help provide guidance to state and local childhood lead poisoning prevention programs. The final report may also be used directly by state and local agencies, private property owners, and managers of public and Indian housing to decide on cost-effective methods of addressing lead poisoning and lead abatement concerns.

Responses to the collection of information are voluntary. The information collected under this ICR is not considered to be confidential.

**Burden Statement:** The burden to respondents for complying with this ICR is estimated to total 683 hours per year, with an annual cost of \$6,825. These totals are based on an average burden of approximately 6.5 total hours for 105 respondents responding to approximately four requests for information annually. These estimates include the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

### III. Public Record

A record has been established for this action under docket number "OPPTS-00195" (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, Rm. NE-B607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in ADDRESSES at the beginning of this document.

### List of Subjects

Environmental protection and Information collection requests.

Dated: August 28, 1996.

Susan H. Wayland,

*Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*

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[FRL-5608-6]

### **Clean Air Act Advisory Committee: Accident Prevention Subcommittee and Electronic Submission Workgroup; Series of Conference Call Meetings—September 1996—May 1997**

#### Background

The Clean Air Act Section 112(r) required EPA to publish regulations to prevent accidental releases of chemicals and to reduce the severity of those releases that do occur. These accidental release prevention requirements build on the chemical safety work begun by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) which sets forth requirements for industry, state and local governments. On June 20, 1996 EPA published the final rule for risk management programs to address prevention of accidental releases.

An estimated 66,000 facilities are subject to this regulation based on the quantity of regulated substances they have on-site. Facilities that are subject will be required to implement a risk management program at their facility, and submit a summary of this information to a central location specified by EPA. This information will be helpful to state and local government entities responsible for chemical emergency preparedness and prevention. It will also be useful to