

substantiation for claims that: (1) The filter in a Honeywell Air Purifier removes 99.97% of mold spores, dust mite allergens, bacteria and viruses from the air that people breathe under household living conditions; (2) The filter in a Honeywell Air Purifier removes nearly all or 99.97% of impurities from the air that people breathe under household living conditions; (3) Consumers who use a Honeywell Air Purifier that changes the air in a room six or more times per hour will experience noticeable symptom relief from allergies and other respiratory problems; and (4) Honeywell Air Purifiers provide proven relief from allergy symptoms.

According to the proposed complaint, the 99.97% figure used in Honeywell's advertisement refers to the filter's expected efficiency in removing particles that actually pass through the filter. While the filter's efficiency is a factor in assessing the effectiveness of an air purifier in particulate removal, this figure overstates the actual effectiveness of the air purifier in removing pollutants from the air in a user's environment. The actual effectiveness of an air purifier, according to the proposed complaint, depends on a variety of factors including, the amount of air that the air purifier processes, the nature of the pollutant, and the rate at which the pollutant is being introduced into the environment.

Additionally, with respect to the allergy relief claims made by Honeywell, the proposed complaint states that there is no guarantee that an individual who suffers from allergies or other respiratory problems will derive a discernible reduction in symptoms through the use of these or other air purifiers. Whether individuals will derive such relief depends on many variables including, the source and severity of their allergies, whether the allergens at issue tend to remain airborne, the rate at which the allergens are emitted into their homes or offices, and other environmental factors.

The proposed consent order contains provisions designed to remedy the violations charged and to prevent the respondent from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future.

Part I of the proposed order would prohibit Honeywell from making certain efficacy claims about Honeywell Air Purifiers, Enviracaire® True HEPA filters, or any other air cleaning product which is normally used for personal, family, or household purposes, unless at the time of making the claims it possesses and relies upon competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Furthermore, claims that state or imply a level of performance under any set of conditions, such as household living conditions, must be substantiated by evidence that either relates to such conditions or that was extrapolated to such conditions by generally accepted procedures. The specific claims covered by Part I include any representation: (1) about such products' ability to eliminate, remove, clear, or clean any quantity of indoor air contaminants under household living conditions; and (2) that such product will perform under any set of conditions, including household living conditions.

Part II of the proposed consent order includes fencing-in relief, requiring that Honeywell possess competent and reliable evidence, which when appropriate must be competent and reliable scientific evidence, for any claim about the performance, health or other benefits, or efficacy of any air cleaning product which is normally used for personal, family, or household purposes.

The proposed order also requires that respondent to maintain materials relied upon to substantiate claims covered by the order; to provide a copy of the consent agreement to all employees or representatives involved in the preparation and placement of the company's advertisements, as well as to all company executives and marketing and sales managers; to notify the Commission of any changes in corporate structure that might affect compliance with the order; and to file one or more reports detailing compliance with the order.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way their terms.

**Donald S. Clark,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-33575 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

## GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

[GAO/AIMD-98-21.3.1]

### Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government

**AGENCY:** General Accounting Office.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The General Accounting Office (GAO) is seeking public comment on the proposed "Standards for Internal Controls in the Federal Government dated December 1997." The proposed

standards are being issued to update the 1983 "Standards for Internal Controls in the Federal Government." The proposed standards incorporate the existing standards and the components of internal control covered in *Internal Control—Integrated Framework*, Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), September 1992. The proposed standards are intended to assist program and financial managers achieve the internal control objectives of their organizations. This notice indicates that the proposed standards are available from GAO for review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by March 11, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the internal control standards draft are available by (1) pick-up at Document Distribution, U.S. General Accounting Office, Room 1100, 700 4th Street, NW. (corner of 4th and G Streets, NW.), Washington, DC; (2) mail from U.S. General Accounting Office, P.O. Box 37050, Washington, DC 20013; (3) phone at 202-512-6000 or FAX 202-512-6061 or TDD 202-512-2537; or (4) on GAO's home page (<http://www.gao.gov>) on the Internet.

Comments should be addressed to the Robert W. Gramling, Director, Corporate Audits and Standards, Accounting and Information Management Division, U.S. General Accounting Office, 441 G Street NW., Room 5089, Washington, DC 20548.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert W. Gramling, 202-512-9406.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Beginning with the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950, agency heads have been required to establish and maintain effective internal control. Since then, other laws have required renewed focus on internal control. The Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982, for example, requires agency heads periodically to evaluate their systems of internal control, using the guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, and to prepare a report on whether their systems conform to the standards issued by the GAO. Most recently, the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996, in focusing on financial management systems, identified internal control as an integral part of those systems. The OMB Circular A-123, "Management Accountability and Control," June 21, 1995, provides the requirements for assessing controls. Over the years, GAO has issued numerous publications to assist agencies in establishing and maintaining effective internal control systems. In 1983, GAO drew on its

previously issued guidance and experts throughout government, private sector, and academic communities to develop and issue "Standards for Internal Controls in the Federal Government" to facilitate implementation of FMFIA. Although those standards remain conceptually sound and are used throughout the federal government, this update enhances the standards by recognizing recent internal control evaluation guidance developed by the private sector with assistance from GAO and others, as well as to giving greater recognition to the increasing use of information technology.

The internal control standards contained in the proposed standards follow the COSO guidance closely and refer to portions of OMB Circular A-123 that provide guidance for evaluating internal control. However, two of the standards concerning management reporting on internal control and resolution of audit findings are standards not addressed by COSO but reflect the public's demand for a high level of accountability for government stewardship of resources. These two standards are currently required by law and by the existing internal control standards. Appendix II cross-references the existing standards with those proposed in the document.

Comments received will be reviewed and the proposed standards will be revised as necessary. Publication of the final standards will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**Gene L. Dodaro,**

*Assistant Comptroller General for Accounting and Information Management.*

[FR Doc. 97-33623 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1610-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Cooperative Agreement With the National Academy of Sciences

**AGENCY:** Office of Public Health and Science.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On behalf of the Public Health Service agencies (PHS), the Office of Public Health and Science has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to provide core support for activities in a number of health areas, including health promotion and disease prevention; health care services; neuroscience and behavioral health; health sciences policy; food and nutrition; international

health; radiation effects research; environmental studies and toxicology; and children, youth and families. The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to provide access to expertise regarding matters of interest to PHS, including independent advice on how complex issues might be defined and addressed in discrete studies and on planning to address the problems and issues identified.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cindy Oswald, Contract Specialist, Program Support Center, AOS/Division of Acquisition Management, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 5-101, Rockville, Maryland 20857, for information about this program, and Linda Meyers, Ph.D., Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science, Room 738-G, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20201, for programmatic technical assistance.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Approximately \$450,000 will be available in FY 1998 to support this project. This award was effective December 1, 1997, for a 12-month budget period with a project period of 5 years. Funding estimates may vary and are subject to change. Continuation awards within the project period will be made if progress is satisfactory and funds are available.

The PHS is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of Healthy People 2000, an HHS-led national activity to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve the quality of life. This announcement is related to objectives in nearly all priority areas. (To order a copy of "Healthy People 2000: Midcourse Review and Revisions," contact the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954; Telephone (202) 512-1800; Internet address: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/index.html>.)

#### Authority

This program is authorized under Sections 301 and 1701 of the Public Health Act.

#### Smoke-free Workplace

The PHS strongly encourages all funding recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and promote the non-use of all tobacco products, and Public Law 103-227, the Pro-Children's Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in certain facilities that receive Federal funds in which education, library, day care, health care, and early childhood development services are provided to the children.

#### Eligible Applicant

Assistance was provided only to the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. No other applications were solicited. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is the only organization that has the ability to assemble such National scientific expertise in a range of health-related fields to furnish independent advice and guidance of the highest quality with an unparalleled level of objectivity. This combination of advice and objectivity is a distinct asset to the PHS in carrying out its mission.

#### Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

A Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number is not required because the project is the only one funded in this activity.

#### Executive Order 12372 Review

This application is not subject to Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs as governed by Executive Order 12372.

#### Public Health System Reporting Requirements

This program is not subject to the Public Health System Reporting Requirements.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

**Susanne A. Stoiber,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Disease Prevention and Health Promotion).*

[FR Doc. 97-33504 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-17-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of Availability

**AGENCY:** Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Public Health and Science.

**ACTION:** Commission on Dietary Supplement Labels: Notice of Availability of Final Report.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is providing notice of the availability of the Report of the Commission on Dietary Supplement Labels.

**DATES:** The final report of the Commission on Dietary Supplement Labels was delivered to the Secretary, Health and Human Services, the President, and Congress on November 24, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**