

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via E-mail to psilvey@msha.gov, along with an original printed copy. Ms. Silvey can be reached at (703) 235-1910 (voice) or (703) 235-5551 (facsimile).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Theresa O'Malley, Program Analysis Office, Office of Program Evaluation and Information Resources, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 715, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Mrs. O'Malley can be reached at tomalley@msha.gov (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-1470 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Title 30 CFR Sections 56.19057 and 57.19057 require the annual certification of hoist operator's fitness. The safety of all metal and nonmetallic miners riding hoist conveyances is dependent upon the attentiveness and physical capabilities of the hoist operators, especially in emergency evacuations. Improper movements, overspeed, and overtravel of a hoisting conveyance can result in serious physical harm or death to all passengers. Unlike other industries, the hazards of mining are not reduced in small operations because of the volume of material to be processed and the heavy equipment used. This precludes making exceptions to safety standards for small mines in order to reduce the burden imposed by the standard. However, small mine operators are likely to have fewer hoist operators.

Section 49.7(a) requires each mine rescue team member to be examined annually by a physician who shall certify that he/she is physically fit to perform mine rescue and recovery work for a prolonged period under extreme conditions. Small operators are not exempt from the requirement for a medical examination for mine rescue personnel; however, they are allowed to provide an approved alternative mine rescue capability.

II. Current Actions

Title 30 CFR Sections 56.19057 and 57.19057 require the annual certification of hoist operator's fitness. The safety of all metal and nonmetallic miners riding hoist conveyance is

dependent upon the attentiveness and physical capabilities of the hoist operators, especially during emergency evacuations. Improper movements, overspeed, and overtravel of a hoisting conveyance can result in serious physical harm or death to all passengers. Small mine operators are likely to have fewer hoist operators.

Section 49.7(a) requires each member of a mine rescue team to be examined annually by a physician who shall certify that he/she is physically fit to perform mine rescue and recovery work for a prolonged period under strenuous conditions.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Record of all Certified and Qualified Persons; Hoist Operators Physical Fitness; and Physical Requirements for Mine Rescue Teams.

OMB Number: 1219-0049.

Agency Number: MSHA 221.

Record keeping: At least one year from the time that certification is obtained.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit Cite/Reference/Form: 30 CFR 56/57.19057 and 30 CFR 49.7.

Total Respondents: 1,154.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Responses: 18,206.

Average Time per Response: 50 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1,511.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$5,277,703.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 24, 1998.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-25999 Filed 9-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Records of All Certified And Qualified Persons; and Man Hoist Operators Physical Fitness

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce

paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection related to the Record of all Certified and Qualified Persons; and Man Hoist Operators Physical Fitness. MSHA is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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;
- 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;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- 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 submissions of responses.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

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ADDRESSES: Send comments to Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via E-mail to psilvey@msha.gov, along with an original printed copy. Ms. Silvey can be reached at (703) 235-1910 (voice) or (703) 235-5551 (facsimile).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa M. O'Malley, Program Analysis Officer, Office of Program Evaluation and Information Resources, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 715, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Mrs. O'Malley can be reached at tomalley@msha.gov (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-8378 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

30 CFR Sections 75.155, 75.159, 75.160, 75.161, 77.105, 77.107, 77.107-1, and 77.106. Sections 75.155 and 77.105 explain the qualifications to be a qualified hoisting engineer or a qualified hoist man on a slope or shaft sinking operation. These requirements are necessary so that it can be determined who is qualified to perform these tasks and how they can become qualified.

Sections 75.159 and 77.106 requires the operator of a mine to maintain a list of all certified and qualified persons designated to perform certain duties around a mine. This list must be posted.

II. Current Actions

30 CFR 75.155, 75.159, 75.161, and 77.105, 77.106, and 77.107-1, require coal operators to maintain a list of persons who are certified and those who are qualified to perform duties which requires specialized expertise at underground and surface coal mines, i.e., conduct test for methane and oxygen deficiency, conduct tests of air flow, perform electrical work, repair energized surface high-voltage lines, and perform duties of hoisting engineer. The regulations also require the mine operator to have an approved training plan so that the qualified and certified people can properly perform their tasks. The recorded information is necessary to ensure that only persons who are

properly trained and have the required number of years of experience are permitted to perform these duties. MSHA does not specify a format for the recordkeeping; however, it normally consists of the names of the certified and qualified person listed in two columns on a sheet of paper. One column is for certified persons and the other is for qualified persons.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Records of All Certified And Qualified Persons; and Man Hoist Operators Physical Fitness.

OMB Number: 1219-0049 (current OMB number; however, OMB will be requested to provide a new number pending reapproval because the Agency is separating these sections from the currently approved 1219-0049).

Recordkeeping: One year.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Cite/reference	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response	Burden
75.155	0	0	0	0	0
75.159	1,064	4	4,256	5 minutes	353
75.161	1,064	1	1,064	8 hrs	8,512
77.105	0	0	0	0	0
77.106	1,699	4	6,796	5 minutes	564
77.107-1	1,699	1	1,699	8 hrs	13,592
Totals	5,526	10	13,815	16.16 hours	23,021

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): 0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 24, 1998.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-26000 Filed 9-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-M

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment regarding the reinstatement, with changes, of a previously approved collection (OMB Clearance 9000-0100) for which approval is now being requested by OFPP.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), OFPP is notifying the public concerning a request to reinstate, with changes, a previously approved information collection requirement concerning the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before November 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda G. Williams, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, 202-395-3302.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to the Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Room 352, OEOB, Washington, DC 20503. Please cite the

Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

The Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act of 1988 (Title VII, Public Law 100-656), as amended, established the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program (Program). The Program was established (1) to demonstrate whether or not small businesses in certain industry groups can compete successfully on an unrestricted basis for Federal contracts, and (2) to demonstrate whether or not targeted goaling and management techniques can expand Federal contract opportunities for small businesses in industry categories where such opportunities historically have been low despite adequate numbers of small business contractors in the economy. Section 401 of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105-135) extends the Program indefinitely.

Under the current Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), small businesses are

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Office of Federal Procurement Policy

Proposed Collection, Comment Request Entitled Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), Office of Management and Budget (OMB).