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Signed at Washington, DC, this 20th day of February 1998.

Carl J. Poleskey,

Chief, Branch of Construction Wage Determinations.

[FR Doc. 98-4747 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Safety Defects, Examination, Correction and Records

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 Safety Defects, Examination, Correction and Records. 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.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 28, 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: George M. Fesak, Director, 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. Mr. Fesak can be reached at gfesak@msha.gov (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-8378 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Title 30 CFR Sections 56.13015 and 57.13015 require compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels be inspected by inspectors holding a valid National Board Commission and in accordance with the applicable chapters of the National Board Inspection Code, a manual for Boiler and Pressure Vessels Inspectors, 1979. Safety defects found on compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels could cause injuries and fatalities in the mining industry. Records of inspections are kept in accordance with the requirements of the National Board Inspection Code and the records are made available to the Secretary or his authorized representative.

Title 30 CFR Sections 56.13030 and 57.13030 require that fired pressure

vessels (boilers) be equipped with safety devices approved by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to protect against hazards from overpressure, flameouts, fuel interruptions and low water level. These sections also require that records of inspection and repairs be retained by the mine operator in accordance with the requirements of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and the National Board Inspection Code (progressive records—no limit on retention time) and shall be made available to the Secretary or his authorized representative.

Title 30 CFR Sections 56.14100 and 57.14100 require equipment operators to inspect equipment, machinery, and tools that are to be used during a shift for safety defects before the equipment is placed in operation. Defects affecting safety are required to be corrected in a timely manner. In instances where the defect makes continued operation of the equipment unsafe, the standards require removal from service, tagging to identify that it is out of use, and repair before use is resumed.

Title 30 CFR Sections 56.18002 and 57.18002 require that a competent person designated by the operator shall examine each working place at least once each shift for conditions which may adversely affect safety or health. A record of such examinations shall be kept by the operator for a period of one year and shall be made available for review by the Secretary or his authorized representative.

II. Current Actions

The records are used by industry management and maintenance personnel to ensure that defects are not overlooked, that repairs are made, and to monitor when and how often maintenance is performed on certain equipment. Additionally, the inspection records denote any hazards that were discovered and how the hazards or unsafe conditions were abated. Federal inspectors use the records to ensure that unsafe conditions are identified early and corrected.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Safety Defects, Examination, Correction and Records.

OMB Number: 1219-0089.

Affected Public: Business of other for-profit.

Cite/reference	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response (minutes)	Burden hours
56/57.13015	1,745	Annually	1,745	10	291
56/57.13030	3,140	Annually	3,140	10	524
56/57.14100	11,000	Daily	10,522,828	5	876,902
56/57.18002	11,000	Daily	2,738,630	12	547,726
Totals	13,266,343	1,425,443

Estimated Total Burden Cost:
\$37,061,518.

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: February 24, 1998.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-5117 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. ICR 98-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Cotton Dust

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, collections instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection request for the Cotton Dust Standard 29 CFR 1910.1043. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can

be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the addresses section of this notice. The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information 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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted by April 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments are to be submitted to the Docket Office, Docket No. ICR 98-5, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210, telephone number (202) 219-7894. Written comments limited to 10 pages or less in length may also be transmitted by facsimile to (202) 219-5046.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adrian Corsey, Directorate of Health Standards Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N3718, telephone (202) 219-7075. A copy of the referenced information collection request is available for inspection and copying in the Docket Office and will be mailed immediately to persons who request copies by telephoning Adrian Corsey at (202) 219-7075 extension 105 or Barbara Bielaski at (202) 219-8076 extension 142. For electronic copies of the Information Collection Request on Cotton Dust, contact OSHA's WebPage on the Internet at <http://www.osha.gov/> and click on standards.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Cotton Dust standard and its information collection requirements provide protection for employees from the adverse health effects associated with occupational exposure to Cotton Dust. The standard requires that employers establish a compliance program, including exposure monitoring and medical surveillance records. These records are used by employees, physicians, employers and OSHA to determine the effectiveness of the employers' compliance efforts. Also the standard requires that OSHA have access to various records to ensure that employers are complying with the disclosure provisions.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Cotton Dust 29 CFR 1910.1043.

OMB Control Number: 1218-0061.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Federal government, State and Local governments.

Total Respondents: 597.

Frequency: On occasion.

Fatal Responses: 451,225.

Average Time per Response: Ranges from 5 minutes to maintain records to 1.5 hours for an employee to have a medical exam.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 132,221.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: 0.

Total initial annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): \$12,111,320.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, this 20 day of February, 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 98-5116 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

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