

“Defect and Noncompliance Reports.” Evenflo has also applied to be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301—“Motor Vehicle Safety” on the basis that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

This notice of receipt of an application is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or other exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the application.

FMVSS No. 213, S5.4.1(a) “Performance Requirements,” requires that:

The webbing of belts provided with a child restraint system and used to attach the system to the vehicle or to restrain the child within the system shall: (a) After being subjected to abrasion as specified in S5.1(d) or S5.3(c) of FMVSS No. 209 (S571.209), have a breaking strength of not less than 75 percent of the strength of the unabraded webbing when tested in accordance with S5.1(b) of FMVSS No. 209.

Evenflo has determined that certain child restraints it manufactured may have tether straps which fail the webbing strength requirements of FMVSS No. 213, S5.4.1(a). The child restraints containing the noncompliance are Ultara (model numbers 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, and 239), Secure Comfort (model number 247), Champion (model number 249), Medallion (model numbers 251, 254 and 259), Horizon (model numbers 420, 421, 425, and 426), Conquest (model numbers 428, and 429) and Tether Kits (model number 628). These child restraints and tether kits were manufactured between January 1, 1998 and May 30, 2000. A total of 959,514 convertible child seats and 40,001 tether kits are in noncompliance with this requirement.

Evenflo supports its application for inconsequential noncompliance with the following:

In March 2000, Evenflo received a PE [Preliminary Evaluation] from NHTSA relating to a potential noncompliance of tether webbing after being subject to abrasion as specified in S5.1(d) of FMVSS No. 209 (referenced in S5.4.1(a) of FMVSS No. 213). According to NHTSA, based upon testing conducted by NHTSA at SGS U.S. Testing, the Elizabeth Mills black tether webbing (vendor style #7635 retained only 67.1 percent of its unabraded strength. Section S5.4.1(a) of FMVSS No. 213 requires webbing used to attach a child restraint to a vehicle to have a breaking strength after abrasion of not less than 75 percent of the unabraded webbing strength.

In April 2000, Evenflo reviewed testing results from ongoing testing at Elizabeth Webbing Mills that showed all 82 test results acceptable on tests conducted from January 28, 1998 to March 13, 2000. The control chart

showed the process to be in statistical control.

Evenflo visited SGS U.S. Testing in Fairfield, New Jersey to review the testing process and obtain samples of the potential nonconforming tether webbing material tested. SGS U.S. Testing did not keep the test samples and had not finished its test report. Evenflo then tried to obtain samples from our finished good warehouse close to the date code tested by SGS U.S. testing. Exact matches of the date code could not be found. Samples of a close date code were then tested at the following independent test labs: Indiana Mills (IMMI), Magill, ACW, and Elizabeth Webbing Mills. The test results yielded a variety of results from 56 to 88 percent of unabraded strength. A follow up of the test results revealed differences in test set-ups and test equipment.

Concurrently, Evenflo conducted sled testing of abraded and unabraded tethers at Veridan to determine if [there] was a safety concern with the tethers in use in the field. All test results shared the same basic performance for abraded and unabraded tethers. The testing demonstrated at least a 90 percent margin on tensile strength after abrasion (mean tensile strength after abrasion is 3,101 pounds and the maximum tensile load in sled testing was 1,616 pounds). According to Evenflo, the sled test results clearly demonstrate that there were no potential safety issues associated with abraded or unabraded tethers on the child restraint systems, and that there is more than an adequate margin of safety to protect against failures during reasonably expected usage.

Elizabeth Webbing Mills discovered an error in the manufacture of its test equipment.

An angle specified for 85 degrees on the equipment was actually built to 90 degrees. Testing with the correct angle revealed a significant effect on the webbing Evenflo used but not on the webbing used by Evenflo’s competitors.

To verify and understand this effect, Evenflo performed a multi-factor factorial design of experiment. The design of experiment confirmed the effect of Evenflo’s webbing material relative to other tether material and the percent unabraded test, but also identified a test set-up within FMVSS 213 and FMVSS 209 that would yield potentially passing results. A question of what was the proper test weight, 1.5 or 2.33 Kg. to use in the testing process was identified.

Evenflo then requested an official interpretation from NHTSA as to the correct test weight to be used. A verification test was conducted to confirm the test set-up identified by the multi-factor factorial design of experiment. On June 19, 2000, the testing did not reveal an acceptable pass rate and as a result Evenflo has stopped manufacture and shipment of child restraint systems using this Elizabeth Webbing Mills style of webbing and is filing this section 573, non-compliance information report.”

Under 49 U.S.C. 30118(d), the Secretary may exempt manufacturers from the Act’s notification requirements

when the Secretary determines that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Evenflo states that it believes that the noncompliance here should be found to be inconsequential because the products meet the intent of the FMVSS 209 and FMVSS 213 performance requirements. Evenflo also stated that as its testing has established, even in the severely abraded condition, that the Elizabeth Webbing Mills (EWM) webbing tethers pass dynamic sled testing with over a 90 percent strength safety margin. Finally, the EWM webbing tethers are stronger before severe abrasion than the tethers of other major U.S. child restraint manufacturers. Only when the EWM webbing tethers are severely abraded is their strength reduced to that of the competitors’ tethers. This accounts for the EWM webbing tethers’ noncompliance with the 75 percent strength retention requirement, but clearly has no effect on the safety of the EWM webbing tethers in real world use.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the application of Evenflo described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: U.S. Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. It is requested, but not required, that two copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be considered. The application and supporting materials, and all comments received after the closing date, will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the application is granted or denied, the notice will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below. Comment closing date: September 28, 2000.

(49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: August 24, 2000.

**Noble N. Bowie,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 00-22036 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-59-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

#### Proposed Renewal of Information Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The OCC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Currently, the OCC is soliciting comment concerning its extension, without change, of an information collection titled, "Financial Subsidiaries and Operating Subsidiaries—12 CFR 5."

**DATES:** You should submit written comments by October 30, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** You should direct all written comments to the Communications Division, Attention: 1557-0215, Third Floor, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219. In addition, you may send comments by facsimile transmission to (202) 874-5274, or by electronic mail to [regs.comments@occ.treas.gov](mailto:regs.comments@occ.treas.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You can request additional information from Karl Betz, Attorney, (202) 874-5090; or a copy of the collection from Jessie Dunaway or Camille Dixon, (202) 874-5090, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division (1557-0206), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219. You can inspect and photocopy the comments at the OCC's Public Reference Room, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on business days. You can make an appointment to inspect the comments by calling (202) 874-5043.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The OCC is proposing to extend OMB approval of the following information collection:

*Title:* Financial Subsidiaries and Operating Subsidiaries—12 CFR 5.

*OMB Number:* 1557-0215.

*Form Number:* None.

*Abstract:* This submission covers an existing regulation and involves no change to the regulation or to the information collections embodied in the regulation. The OCC requests only that OMB renew its approval of the information collections in the current regulation.

The information requirements in 12 CFR part 5 are located as follows:

12 CFR 5.24(d)(2)(ii)(G)—Conversion: An institution must identify all subsidiaries that will be retained following the conversion and provide information and analysis of the subsidiaries' activities that would be required if the converting bank or savings association were a national bank

establishing each subsidiary pursuant to sections 5.34 or 5.39. The OCC will use the information to determine whether to grant the financial institution's request to convert to a national charter.

12 CFR 5.33(e)(3)(i) and (ii)—Business combinations: A national bank must identify any subsidiary to be acquired in a business combination and state the activities of each subsidiary. A national bank proposing to acquire, through a business combination, a subsidiary of a depository institution other than a national bank must provide the same information and analysis of the subsidiary's activities that would be required if the applicant were establishing the subsidiary pursuant to sections 5.34 or 5.39.

The OCC needs this information regarding the subsidiaries to be acquired to determine whether to approve the business combination. The OCC will use this information to confirm that the proposed activity is permissible for operating subsidiaries and to ensure that a bank proposing to conduct activities through a financial subsidiary satisfies relevant statutory criteria.

12 CFR 5.34—Operating subsidiaries: A national bank must file a notice or application to acquire or establish an operating subsidiary, or to commence a new activity in an existing operating subsidiary. The application or notice provides the OCC with needed information regarding the activities and location(s) of the operating subsidiaries. The OCC will review the information to determine whether proposed activities are legally permissible, to ensure that the proposal is consistent with safe and sound banking practices and OCC policy, and that it does not endanger the safety and soundness of the parent national banks.

12 CFR 5.35(f)(1) and (2)—Bank service companies: Under section 5.35(f)(1), a national bank that intends to make an investment in a bank service company, or to perform new activities in an existing bank service company, must submit a notice to and receive prior approval from the OCC.

Under section 5.35(f)(2), a national bank that is "well capitalized" and "well managed" may invest in a bank service company, or perform a new activity in an existing bank service company, by providing the appropriate OCC district office written notice within 10 days after the investment, if the bank service company engages only in the activities listed in section 5.34(e)(5)(v). The OCC will review after-the-fact notices to confirm the permissibility of the national bank's investment in the bank service company.

12 CFR 5.36(e)—Other equity investments—Non-controlling investments: A national bank may make a non-controlling investment, directly or through its operating subsidiary, in an enterprise that engages in the activities described in section 5.36(e)(2) by filing a written notice. The OCC will use the information provided in the notice to confirm that the national bank is well capitalized and well managed, and that the bank meets the requirements applicable to non-controlling investments.

12 CFR 5.39—Financial subsidiaries: A national bank must file a notice prior to acquiring a financial subsidiary or engaging in activities authorized pursuant to section 5136A(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 24a) through a financial subsidiary. A national bank that intends, directly or indirectly, to acquire control of, or hold an interest in, a financial subsidiary, or to commence a new activity in an existing financial subsidiary, must obtain OCC approval through the procedures set forth in sections 5.39(i)(1) and (2). The OCC will review this information to ensure that a proposed activity satisfies applicable statutory criteria.

*Type of Review:* Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 587.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 587.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 587 burden hours.

## COMMENTS

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

(e) Estimates of capital or startup costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: August 23, 2000.

**Stuart E. Feldstein,**

*Assistant Director, Legislative & Regulatory Activities Division.*

[FR Doc. 00-22022 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Renewable Electricity Production Credit, Publication of Inflation Adjustment Factor and Reference Prices for Calendar Year 2000

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Publication of inflation adjustment factor and reference prices for calendar year 2000 as required by section 45(d)(2)(A) (26 U.S.C. 45(d)(2)(A)).

**SUMMARY:** The 2000 inflation adjustment factor and reference prices are used in determining the availability of the renewable electricity production credit under section 45(a).

**DATES:** The 2000 inflation adjustment factor and reference prices apply to calendar year 2000 sales of kilowatt hours of electricity produced in the United States or a possession thereof from qualified energy resources.

#### Inflation Adjustment Factor

The inflation adjustment factor for calendar year 2000 is 1.1382.

#### Reference Prices

The reference prices for calendar year 2000 are 4.95¢ per kilowatt hour for facilities producing electricity from wind and 0¢ per kilowatt hour for facilities producing electricity from closed-loop biomass and poultry waste.

Because the 2000 reference prices for electricity produced from wind, closed-loop biomass, and poultry waste energy resources do not exceed 8¢ multiplied by the inflation adjustment factor, the phaseout of the credit provided in section 45(b)(1) does not apply to electricity sold during calendar year 2000.

#### Credit Amount

As required by section 45(b)(2), the 1.5¢ amount in section 45(a)(1) is adjusted by multiplying such amount by the inflation adjustment factor for the calendar year in which the sale occurs. If any amount as increased under the

preceding sentence is not a multiple of 0.1¢, such amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of 0.1¢. Under the calculation required by section 45(b)(2), the renewable electricity production credit for calendar year 2000 under section 45(a) is 1.7¢ per kilowatt hour on the sale of electricity produced from wind, closed-loop biomass, and poultry waste energy resources.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David A. Selig, IRS, CC:PSI:5, 1111 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20224, (202) 622-3040 (not a toll-free call).

**Paul F. Kugler,**

*Associate Chief Counsel (Passthroughs & Special Industries).*

[FR Doc. 00-22076 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs, Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs (Committee) will be held Monday and Tuesday, September 18-19, 2000, at VA Headquarters, Room 430, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The September 18 session will convene at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. and the September 19 session will convene at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 noon. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Department on its prosthetic programs designed to provide state-of-the-art prosthetics and the associated rehabilitation research, development, and evaluation of such technology. The Committee also advises the Department on special disability programs which are defined as any program administered by the Secretary to serve veterans with spinal cord injury, blindness or vision impairment, loss of or loss of use of extremities, deafness or hearing impairment, or other serious incapacities in terms of daily life functions.

On the morning of September 18, the Committee will receive briefings by the National Program Directors of the Special-Disabilities Programs regarding the status of their activities over the last three months. In the afternoon, a briefing concerning functional outcomes for Blind Rehabilitation will be presented. On the morning of September 19, the Committee will receive a briefing

by a Department of Defense representative on the referral process of traumatic brain-injured patients to VA and the reimbursement rate impact. The Committee will have the opportunity to ask questions following this briefing.

The meeting is open to the public. For those wishing to attend, contact Kathy Pessagno, Veterans Health Administration (113), phone (202) 273-8512, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, prior to September 15, 2000.

Dated: August 22, 2000.

**Marvin Eason,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-22048 Filed 8-28-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service, Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, gives notice under Public Law 92-463, that a meeting of the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service will be held at The San Francisco Marriott Fisherman's Wharf, 1200 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94133, January 22-24, 2001. On January 22, the meeting will convene from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. and on January 23 through January 24 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care services and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer.

This meeting will be open to the public at the start of the January 22 session for approximately one half-hour to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information