

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act Notice

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m. (EDT), August 13, 2001.

PLACE: 4th Floor, Conference Room 4506, 1250 H Street, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Approval of the minutes of the July 9, 2001, Board member meeting.

2. Thrift Savings Plan activity report by the Executive Director.

3. Review of KPMG LLP audit reports:
(a) System Availability and Capacity Readiness Review of the Thrift Savings Plan System at the United States Department of Agriculture, National Finance Center.

(b) Pre-Implementation Review of the New Thrift Savings Plan System's Selected Business Processes and Data Conversion Controls at the United States Department of Agriculture, National Finance Center.

4. Review of investment policy.
5. Review of Arthur Andersen semiannual financial review.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.

Dated: August 8, 2001.

Elizabeth S. Wooddruff,

Secretary to the Board, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 01-20360 Filed 8-9-01; 9:04 am]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission ("FTC").

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) information collection requirements contained in its Used Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation Rule ("Used Car Rule" or "Rule"). The FTC is seeking public comments on its proposal to extend through September 30, 2004 the current PRA clearance for information collection requirements contained in the Rule. That clearance expires on September 30, 2001.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10202, Washington, DC 20503, Attn.: Desk Officer for the Federal Trade Commission, and to Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room H-159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. All comments should be captioned "Used Car Rule: Paperwork comment."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information requirements should be addressed to John C. Hallerud, Attorney, Midwest Region, Federal Trade Commission, 55 East Monroe, Suite 1860, Chicago, Illinois 60603, (312) 960-5634.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. On May 22, 2001, the FTC sought comment on the information collection requirements associated with the Used Car Rule, 16 CFR Part 455 (Control Number: 3084-0108). See 66 FR 28164. No comments were received. Pursuant to the OMB regulations that implement that PRA (5 CFR Part 1320), the FTC is providing this second opportunity for public comment while seeking OMB approval to extend the existing paperwork clearance for the Rule.

The Used Car Rule facilitates informed purchasing decisions by consumers by requiring used car dealers to disclose information about warranty coverage, if any, and the mechanical condition of used cars they offer for sale. The Rule requires that used car dealers display a Buyers Guide that, among other things, discloses information about warranty coverage on each used car offered for sale.

Burden Statement

Estimated total annual hours burden: 1,925,000 hours.

The Rule has no recordkeeping requirements. The estimated buyers relating solely to disclosure is 1,925,000 hours. This estimate is based on the number of used car dealers (approximately 80,000¹), the number of

¹ The Used Car Market Report 2001 ("Manheim Market Report"), p. 24, published by Manheim Auctions, 1400 Lake Hearn Drive NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30319, citing NADA, CNW Marketing Research. Prior issues of The Used Market Report were published by ADT Automotive. The Manheim Market Report indicates the number of dealerships in 2000 to be 77,750. See <http://www.manheimauctions.com/HTML/ucmr/dealership.html#>. For rounding purposes, staff retains its prior estimate of 80,000.

used cars sold by dealers annually (approximately 30,000,000²), and the time needed to fulfill the information collection tasks required by the Rule.³ Staff retains its prior annual burden estimate as the changes in the approximate number of dealers and used cars they sold are marginal.⁴

The Rule requires that used car dealers display a one-page, double-sided Buyers Guide in the window of each used care they offer for sale. The component tasks associated with this requirement include: (1) Ordering and stocking Buyers Guide forms; (2) entering applicable data on Buyers Guides; (3) posting the Buyers Guides on vehicles; and (4) making any necessary revisions in Buyers Guides.

Dealers should need no more than an average of one hour per year to obtain Buyers Guide forms, which are readily available from many commercial printers or can be produced by an office word-processing or desk-top publishing system. Based on a universe of 80,000 dealers, the annual hours burden for producing or obtaining and stocking Buyers Guides is 80,000 hours.

For used cars sold "as is," copying vehicle-specific data from dealer inventories to the Buyers Guide forms and checking off the "no warranty" box may take up to two minutes per vehicle if done by hand, and only seconds for those dealers who have automated the process. Staff conservatively assumes that this task, on average, will require 1.5 minutes. For used cars sold under warranty, checking off the warranty box and adding warranty information may take an additional one minute, i.e., 2.5 minutes. Based on input from industry sources, staff estimates that approximately 60% of used cars sold by dealers are sold "as is," with the remainder sold under warranty. Thus, staff estimates the time required to enter data for used cars sold without warranty is 450,000 hours (30,000,000 × 60% × 1.5 minutes ÷ 60 minutes/hour) and 500,000 hours for used cars sold under warranty (30,000,000 × 40% × 2.5 minutes ÷ 60 minutes/hour), for an overall total of 950,000 hours.

² Manheim Market Report, p. 15. The Manheim Market Report estimates the number of used cars sold by dealers in 2000 to be 29,800,000. For rounding purposes, staff retains its prior estimate of 30,000,000.

³ A relatively small number of dealers opt to contract with outside companies to perform the various tasks associated with complying with the Rule. Staff assumes that outside contractors would require about the same amount of time and incur similar cost as dealers to perform these tasks. Accordingly, the hour and cost burden totals shown, while referring to "dealers," incorporate the time and cost borne by outside companies in performing the tasks associated with the Rule.

⁴ See notes 1 and 2.

Although the time required to post the Buyers Guides on each used car may vary substantially, FTC staff estimates that, on average, dealers will spend 1.75 minutes per vehicle to match the correct Buyers Guide to the vehicle and place it in or on the vehicle. For the 30,000,000 vehicles sold, the burden associated with this task is 875,000 hours. To the extent dealers are able to integrate this process into other activities performed in their ordinary course of business, this estimate likely overstates the actual burden.

If negotiations between buyer and seller over warranty coverage produce a sale on terms other than those originally entered on the Buyers Guide, the dealer must revise the Guide to reflect the actual terms of sale. According to the rulemaking record, bargaining over warranty coverage rarely occurs. Allowing for revision in 2% of sales, at two minutes per revision, staff estimates that dealers will spend 20,000 hours annually revising Buyers Guides.

Estimated annual cost burden: 28,250,000 consisting of \$19,250,000 in labor costs and \$9,000,000 in non-labor costs.

Labor costs: Labor costs are derived by applying appropriate hourly cost figures to the burden hours described above. Staff has determined that all of the tasks associated with ordering forms, entering data on Buyers Guides, posting Buyers Guides on vehicles, and revising them as needed are typically done by clerical or low-level administrative personnel. Using a clerical cost rate \$10 per hour and an estimate of 1,925,000 burden hours for disclosure requirements, the total labor cost burden would be approximately \$19,250,000.

Capital or other non-labor costs: The cost of the Buyers Guide form itself estimated to be 30 cents per form, so that forms for 30 million vehicles would cost dealers \$9,000,000. In making this estimate, staff conservatively assumes that all dealers will purchase preprinted forms instead of producing them internally, although dealers may produce them at minimal expense using current office automation technology. Capital and start-up costs associated with the Rule are minimal.

John D. Graubert,

Acting General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-20276 Filed 8-10-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) information collection requirements contained in its Appliance Labeling Rule ("Rule"), promulgated pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 ("EPCA"). The FTC is seeking public comments on its proposal to extend through September 30, 2004 the current PRA clearance for information collection requirements contained in the Rule. The clearance expires on September 30, 2001.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10202, Washington, DC 20503, Attn.: Desk Officer for the Federal Trade Commission, and to Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room H-159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. All comments should be captioned "Appliance Labeling Rule Paperwork comment."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection requirements should be addressed to Hampton Newsome, Attorney, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Division of Enforcement, Room 4616, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580 (202-326-2889).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. On June 1, 2001, the FTC sought comment on the information collection requirements associated with the Appliance Labeling Rule, 16 CFR part 305 (Control Number: 3084-0069). See 66 FR 29807. No comments were received, including with regard to staff's PRA burden estimates. Pursuant to the OMB regulations that implement the PRA (5 CFR part 1320), the FTC is providing this second opportunity for public comment while seeking OMB approval to extend the existing paperwork clearance for the Rule.

The Rule establishes testing, reporting, recordkeeping, and labeling requirements for manufacturers of major household appliances (refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, freezers, water heaters, clothes washers, dishwashers, room air conditioners, furnaces, central air conditioners, heat pumps, pool heaters, certain lighting products, and certain plumbing products). The requirements relate specifically to the disclosure of information relating to energy consumption and water usage. The Rule's testing and disclosure requirements enable consumers purchasing appliances to compare the energy use or efficiency of competing models. In addition, EPCA and the Rule require manufacturers to submit relevant data to the Commission regarding energy or water usage in connection with the products they manufacture. The Commission uses this data to compile ranges of comparability for covered appliances for publication in the **Federal Register**. These submissions, along with required records for testing data, may also be used in enforcement actions involving alleged misstatement on labels or in advertisements.

Burden Statement

Estimated annual hours burden: 445,000 hours

The estimated hours burden imposed by section 324 of EPCA and the Commission's Rule include burdens for testing (338,292 hours); reporting (1,324 hours); recordkeeping (767 hours); labeling (101,333 hours); and retail catalog disclosures (2,550 hours). The total burden for these activities is 445,000 hours (rounded to the nearest thousand). This estimate is lower than previous estimates because of revised assumptions regarding the number of basic models subjected to FTC-required testing each year (see discussion below).

The following estimates of the time needed to comply with the requirements of the Rule are based on census data, Department of Energy figures and estimates, general knowledge of manufacturing practices, and industry input and figures. Because compliance burden falls almost on manufacturers and importers (with a de minimis burden for retailers), burden estimates are calculated on the basis of the number of domestic manufacturers and/or the number of units shipped domestically in the various product categories.

A. Testing

Under the Rule, manufacturers of covered products must test each basic model they produce to determine energy