

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission's procurement of goods and services is governed by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (41 U.S.C. 253 *et seq.*). That law requires the Commission to procure goods and services under conditions most advantageous to the government, considering cost and other factors.

A. Information Required by Procurement Forms

The Commission requires persons and firms to submit quotations, proposals, and bids for contracts to provide goods and services on standardized forms. These forms request information from offerors about costs or prices of goods and services to be supplied; specifications of goods and descriptions of services to be delivered; competence of the offeror to provide the goods or services; and other information about the offeror such as the size of the firm and whether it is minority owned. The Commission uses the information provided by offerors to determine the reasonableness of prices and costs and the responsiveness of potential contractors to undertake the work involved so that all bids may be awarded in accordance with Federal procurement laws.

OMB approved the collection of information requirements in the procurement forms used by the Commission under control number 3041-0059. OMB's most recent extension of approval will expire on November 30, 2002. The CPSC now proposes to request extension of approval for the information collection requirements in the forms used for procurement of goods and services. The Commission plans to use the Internet and the General Services Administration's (GSA) GSA Advantage! System for delivery order purchasing. The Internet provides small businesses access to information about the Commission's current needs for goods and services.

B. Information Collection Burden

During fiscal year 2001, approximately 2,539 firms spent about 14,174 hours responding to all Requests for Quotations (RFQs), and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) issued by the Commission. The time required by vendors to respond ranged from as little as 10 to 15 minutes per firm for a simple telephone, e-mail, fax, or Internet response concerning the purchase of a standard item or service, to as much as 100–200 hours per firm for a complex written offer prepared in response to technically complex RFQs and RFPs.

Based on the number of procurements, details of actions reported by the Federal Procurement Data System, and the procurement staff's experience with the sales and technical functions of various vendors, we believe firms spent an estimated 11,624 hours responding to oral, electronic, and written RFQs and RFPs and approximately 2,550 hours preparing quotes and proposals in response to more complex RFQs and RFPs. The cost of preparing a response to an oral, electronic, or written RFQ or RFP is estimated to be approximately \$36 per hour for regular sales staff and \$55 per hour for high level sales staff with advanced technical expertise for more complex procurements (based on Web search at the Career Journal from the Wall Street Journal and Salary.com and research of salary tables from "Sales and Marketing Management" magazine dated May 2001). The annualized cost to all firms for responding to all RFQs and RFPs issued by the Commission is estimated to be \$558,714 (11,624 hours × \$36/hr + 2,550 hours × \$55/hr = \$558,714).

The total cost to the government for all collections of information by the Commission related to procurement of goods and services is estimated to be about \$972,187 a year. This estimate was made by reviewing the Commission's procurement activities in fiscal year 2001.

C. Request for Comments

The Commission solicits written comments from all interested persons about the proposed collection of information. The Commission specifically solicits information relevant to the following topics:

- Whether the collection of information described above is necessary for the proper performance of the Commission's functions, including whether the information would have practical utility;
- Whether the estimated burden of the proposed collection of information is accurate;
- Whether the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected could be enhanced; and
- Whether the burden imposed by the collection of information could be minimized by use of automated, electronic or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 10, 2002.

Todd Stevenson,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 02-23454 Filed 9-13-02; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Testing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Carpets and Rugs

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Consumer Product Safety Commission requests comments on a proposed extension of approval, through November 30, 2005, of information collection requirements for manufacturers and importers of carpets and rugs. The collection of information is in regulations implementing the Standard for the Surface Flammability of Carpets and Rugs (16 CFR part 1630) and the Standard for the Surface Flammability of Small Carpets and Rugs (16 CFR part 1631). These regulations establish requirements for testing and recordkeeping for manufacturers and importers who furnish guarantees for products subject to the carpet flammability standards. The Commission will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting an extension of approval of this collection of information from the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: The Office of the Secretary must receive comments not later than November 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be captioned "Carpets and Rugs; Paperwork Reduction Act," and mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Written comments may also be sent to the Office of the Secretary by facsimile at (301) 504-0127 or by e-mail at cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposed collection of information call or write Linda L. Glatz, Management and Program Analyst, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; (301) 504-0416, Ext. 2226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. The Standards

Carpets and rugs that have one dimension greater than six feet, a surface area greater than 24 square feet, and are manufactured for sale in or imported into the United States are subject to the Standard for the Surface

Flammability of Carpets and Rugs (16 CFR part 1630). Carpets and rugs that have no dimension greater than six feet and a surface area not greater than 24 square feet are subject to the Standard for the Surface Flammability of Small Carpets and Rugs (16 CFR part 1631).

Both of these standards were issued under the Flammable Fabrics Act (FFA) (15 U.S.C. 1191 *et seq.*). Both standards require that products subject to their provisions must pass a flammability test that measures resistance to a small, timed ignition source. Small carpets and rugs that do not pass the flammability test comply with the standard for small carpets and rugs if they are permanently labeled with the statement that they fail the standard and should not be used near sources of ignition.

Section 8 of the FFA (15 U.S.C. 1197) provides that a person who receives a guaranty in good faith that a product complies with an applicable flammability standard is not subject to criminal prosecution for a violation of the FFA resulting from the sale of any product covered by the guaranty. Section 8 of the FFA requires that a guaranty must be based on "reasonable and representative" tests. Many manufacturers and importers of carpets and rugs issue guarantees that the products they produce or import comply with the applicable standard. Regulations implementing the carpet flammability standards prescribe requirements for testing and recordkeeping by firms that issue guarantees. See 16 CFR part 1630, Subpart B, and 16 CFR part 1631, Subpart B. The Commission uses the information compiled and maintained by firms that issue these guarantees to help protect the public from risks of injury or death associated with carpet fires. More specifically, the information helps the Commission arrange corrective actions if any products covered by a guaranty fail to comply with the applicable standard in a manner that creates a substantial risk of injury or death to the public. The Commission also uses this information to determine whether the requisite testing was performed to support the guarantees.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the collection of

information in the regulations under control number 3041-0017. OMB's most recent extension of approval expires on November 30, 2002. The Commission now proposes to request an extension of approval without change for the collection of information in the regulations.

B. Estimated Burden

The Commission staff estimates that the enforcement rules result in an industry expenditure of a total of 60,000 hours for testing and recordkeeping. However, the Commission is unable to estimate the total dollar cost incurred by the industry. The Commission staff estimates that 120 firms are subject to the information collection requirements because the firms have elected to issue a guaranty of compliance with the FFA. The number of tests that a firm issuing a guaranty of compliance would be required to perform each year varies, depending upon the number of carpet styles and the annual volume of production. The staff estimates that the average firm issuing a continuing guaranty under the FFA is required to conduct a maximum of 200 tests per year. The actual number of tests required by a given firm may vary from 1 to 200, depending upon the number of carpet styles and the annual production volume. For example, if a firm manufactures 100,000 linear yards of carpet each year, and has obtained consistently passing test results, only one test per year is required. The time required to conduct each test is estimated by the staff to be 2½ hours plus the time required to establish and maintain the test record. The estimated annual cost of the information and collection requirements to the Federal government is approximately \$22,500. This sum includes three staff months and travel costs expended for examination of the records required to be maintained.

C. Request for Comments

The Commission solicits written comments from all interested persons about the proposed collection of information. The Commission specifically solicits information relevant to the following topics:

- Whether the collection of information described above is necessary for the proper performance of the Commission's functions, including whether the information would have practical utility;

- Whether the estimated burden of the proposed collection of information is accurate;

- Whether the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected could be enhanced; and

- Whether the burden imposed by the collection of information could be minimized by use of automated, electronic or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 10, 2002.

Todd A. Stevenson,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 02-37]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Pub L 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSCA/COMPT/RM, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 02-37 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: September 9, 2002.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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