

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* Varied, dependent upon the data collection method employed. The response time will vary from 15 minutes to fill out a questionnaire to several hours to participate in an empirical study. Average response time is expected to be 1 hour.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 2,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$0.

#### IV. Request for Comments

*Comments are invited on:* (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, *e.g.*, the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: March 17, 2003.

#### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-6775 Filed 3-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

*Title:* Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Management Information Reporting.

*Form:* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0693-0032.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Burden Hours:* 4,048.

*Number of Respondents:* 60.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 68 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), sponsored by NIST, is a national network of locally-based manufacturing extension centers working with small manufacturers to help improve their productivity, improve profitability and enhance their economic competitiveness.

The collected information will provide the MEP with information regarding the centers' performance in the delivery of technology, and business solutions to US-based manufacturers. The information obtained will assist in determining the performance of the MEP Centers at both a local and national level, as well as, the impact on the national economy. Responses to the collection of information are mandatory per the regulations governing the operation of the MEP Program (15 CFR 290, 291, 292, and H.R. 1274—Section 2).

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Jacqueline Zeiher, (202) 395-4638.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Jacqueline Zeiher, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 17, 2003.

#### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-6776 Filed 3-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-CN-P

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Fastener Quality Act Requirements

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent prudent, invites the general paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 20, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Wayne Stiefel, International Legal Metrology Group, 301-975-4011 or via the Internet at [stiefel@nist.gov](mailto:stiefel@nist.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a component of the Technology Administration reporting to the Under Secretary for Technology, under the Fastener Quality Act (the Act) (Public Law 101-592 amended by Public Law 104-113, Public Law 105-234 and Public Law 106-34) is required to accept an affirmation from laboratory accreditation bodies and quality system registrar accreditation bodies. They are required to meet the applicable International Organization for Standardization/International Electro-Technical Commission (ISO/IEC) Guides (ISO/IEC Guide 58 for laboratory accreditors and ISO/IEC Guide 61 for registrar accreditors). An organization having made such an affirmation to NIST may accredit either fastener testing laboratories or quality system registrars for fastener manufacturers in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Act. NIST will solicit information declarations from U.S. and foreign, private accreditation bodies. The information collected will enable NIST to compile a list of accreditation bodies able to provide accreditations meeting all the requirements of the Act and of the procedures, 15 CFR part 280.

##### II. Method of Collection

Applicants submit required information in paper form.