

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****GENERAL SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0045]

**Federal Acquisition Regulation;  
Submission for OMB Review; Bid  
Guarantees, Performance and Payment  
Bonds, and Alternative Payment  
Protections**

**AGENCIES:** Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0045).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning bid guarantees, performance and payment bonds, and alternative payment protections. The clearance currently expires on October 31, 2004.

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the FAR, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 3, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0045, Bid, Performance, and Payment Bonds, in all correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** Cecelia Davis, Contract Policy Division, GSA (202) 219-0202.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****A. Purpose**

These regulations implement the statutory requirements of the Miller Act (40 U.S.C. 3131-3134), which requires performance and payment bonds for any construction contract exceeding \$100,000, unless it is impracticable to require bonds for work performed in a foreign country, or it is otherwise authorized by law. In addition, the regulations implement the note to 40 U.S.C. 3132, entitled "Alternatives to Payment Bonds Provided by the Federal Acquisition Regulation," which requires alternative payment protection for construction contracts that exceed \$25,000 but do not exceed \$100,000. Although not required by statute, under certain circumstances the FAR permits the Government to require bonds on other than construction contracts.

**B. Annual Reporting Burden**

*Respondents:* 11,304.

*Responses Per Respondent:* 5.

*Total Responses:* 56,520.

*Hours Per Response:* .42.

*Total Burden Hours:* 23,738.

*Obtaining Copies of Proposals:*

Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501-4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0045, Bid, Performance, and Payment Bonds, in all correspondence.

Dated: November 24, 2004

**Gerald Zaffos**

*Acting Director, Contract Policy Division.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****GENERAL SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0022]

**Federal Acquisition Regulation;  
Submission for OMB Review; Duty-  
Free Entry**

**AGENCIES:** Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0022).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning customs and duties. A request for public comments was published in the Federal Register at 69 FR 54654 on September 9, 2004. No comments were received.

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the FAR, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 3, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (V), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0022, Duty-Free Entry, in all correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** Cecelia Davis, Contract Policy Division, GSA (202) 219-0202.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****A. Purpose**

United States laws impose duties on foreign supplies imported into the customs territory of the United States. Certain exemptions from these duties are available to Government agencies. These exemptions are used whenever the anticipated savings outweigh the administrative costs associated with processing required documentation. When a Government contractor purchases foreign supplies, it must notify the contracting officer to determine whether the supplies should be duty-free. In addition, all shipping documents and containers must specify certain information to assure the duty-free entry of the supplies.

The contracting officer analyzes the information submitted by the contractor

to determine whether or not supplies should enter the country duty-free. The information, the contracting officer's determination, and the U.S. Customs forms are placed in the contract file.

#### B. Annual Reporting Burden

*Respondents:* 1,330.

*Responses Per Respondent:* 10.

*Total Responses:* 13,300.

*Hours Per Response:* .5.

*Total Burden Hours:* 6,650.

*Obtaining Copies of Proposals:*

Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (V), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501-4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0022, Duty-Free Entry, in all correspondence.

Dated: November 19, 2004

#### Laura Auletta

*Director, Contract Policy Division.*

[FR Doc. 04-26471 Filed 11-30-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Comprehensive School Reform Quality Initiatives Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed priorities.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education proposes priorities for the competitions under the Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Quality Initiatives program to reflect the importance of all children meeting challenging State academic content and State academic achievement standards. The Assistant Secretary may use these proposed priorities for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2005 and in later years.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before January 3, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments about these proposed priorities to Margaret McNeely, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3W103, Washington, DC 20202-6200, Fax (202) 260-8969. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: [compreform@ed.gov](mailto:compreform@ed.gov).

You must include the term COMMENTS in the subject line of your electronic message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Margaret McNeely. Telephone: (202) 260-1335 or via the Internet at [compreform@ed.gov](mailto:compreform@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Invitation To Comment

We invite you to submit written comments regarding these proposed priorities. To ensure that your comments have maximum effect in developing the notice of final priorities, we urge you to identify clearly the specific proposed priority that each comment addresses.

We invite you to assist us in complying with the specific requirements of Executive Order 12866 and its overall requirement of reducing regulatory burden that might result from these proposed priorities. Please let us know of any further opportunities we should take to reduce potential costs or increase potential benefits while preserving the effective and efficient administration of the program.

During and after the public comment period, you may inspect all public comments about these proposed priorities in Room 3W103, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20202 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

##### Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record

On request, we will supply an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for these proposed priorities. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

##### General

The purpose of the CSR Quality Initiatives program, authorized under section 1608 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), is to provide discretionary grants to support activities that will enhance the State-administered CSR program and to enable schools that have been identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under

Title I of the ESEA to meet their State's definition of adequate yearly progress (AYP). Under this program, the Secretary awards funds to support two specific categories of activities: Category 1—technical assistance to States, school districts and schools in making informed decisions regarding approving or selecting providers of comprehensive school reform, and Category 2—capacity building for comprehensive school reform providers to expand their work in more schools, assure quality and promote financial stability.

##### Background of Proposed Priorities

Grantees under Category 1 assist States, local educational agencies (LEAs), and schools in making informed decisions regarding approving or selecting providers of comprehensive school reform, consistent with the requirements of section 1606(a) of the ESEA, as amended. Research and evaluation studies of comprehensive school reform implementation indicate that schools in need of improvement face a myriad of challenges in meeting AYP. One of these challenges is to expand the knowledge of district and school personnel regarding school reform strategies and methods so that they can effectively assist in identifying clearly the teaching and learning needs of the school and can identify the service provider that can best meet those needs. With more quality information about the problem areas and scientifically-based solutions, schools will be in a stronger position to implement school reforms effectively. In addition to the need for schools and districts to become better consumers of school reform data and research, school- and district-based reformers need to have a better understanding of the timeline for implementing the necessary changes in teaching and learning and how to track student achievement gains throughout the process. Accordingly, we are proposing a priority for Category 1 projects that will provide States, districts and schools with high-quality information tools and other forms of technical assistance to identify the instructional needs of students and to select a reform approach and provider to meet those needs effectively so that all students are able to meet challenging State academic content and student achievement standards and so that schools are able to make AYP.

To implement the matching requirements of the ESEA, we are also proposing a priority for Category 1 projects that propose to match Federal funds received under this competition with funds from one or more private organizations.