

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Qualified Products List for Long-Term Retardant for Wildland Firefighting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension (with contact revision) of a currently approved information collection, Qualified Products List for Long-Term Retardant For Wildland Firefighting.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before November 21, 2011 to be assured of consideration.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Victoria Henderson, Branch Director, Equipment and Chemicals, U. S. Forest Service, National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S. Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 208-387-5398 or by e-mail to: thenderson@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), Jack Wilson Building, Boise, Idaho, Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 208-387-5348 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cecilia Johnson, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC), 406-329-4819; Shirley Zylstra (MTDC), 406-329-4859; or Tory Henderson, NIFC, 208-387-5348. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339

twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Qualified Products List for Long Term Retardant for Wildland Firefighting.

OMB Number: 0596-0184.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 29, 2012.

Type of Request: Extension with contact revision.

Abstract: The Forest Service and cooperating wildland firefighting agencies need adequate types and quantities of qualified fire chemical products available to accomplish fire management activities as safely and effectively as possible. To accomplish this objective, the Agency evaluates and pre-approves commercial wildland firefighting chemicals. The Agency may be required to submit the formulations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries during the evaluation process. All products must meet the requirements of specifications identified and maintained by the Wildland Fire Chemical Systems (WFCS) staff at the Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC). After a product evaluation has been completed successfully, the product is added to the Qualified Products List (QPL) for the appropriate product type. All Forest Service procurements of wildland fire chemicals are made from these lists.

To initiate an evaluation, product manufacturers (or authorized suppliers) enter into an agreement with the Forest Service and pay all costs associated with the submission and evaluation of the product.

Once the agreement is in place and funds are deposited to cover the associated costs, the manufacturer submits the following information to WFCS:

1. List of the specific ingredients and quantity used to prepare the product;
2. Identification of the source of supply for each ingredient;
3. Copies of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product and for each ingredient used to prepare the product; and
4. Specific mixing requirements and performance information.

Review of the submitted information assures that the product does not contain ingredients meeting the criteria for Chemicals of Concern, for example,

by appearing on one or more of the following lists:

1. Agency list of unacceptable ingredients;
2. National Toxicology Program (NTP) "Annual Report on Carcinogens";
3. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs for Potential Carcinogens; and
4. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) "List of Extremely Hazardous Substances and Their Threshold Planning Quantities".

A risk assessment, performed at manufacturer expense, may be required. When a risk assessment is necessary, a third party selected by the Agency assesses the products and levels of ingredients found in typical applications relative to human and environmental impact.

Each product submitted is tested to determine the mammalian and aquatic toxicity of the product and must meet specific levels of performance to minimize potential risk during firefighting operations.

Additional tests are performed to determine the effectiveness of the product to reduce spread rate and intensity of the fire even after the water in the product has evaporated.

A number of product characteristics are measured over the operational performance range of the product to ensure that the product meets the needs of the firefighters in the field.

The collection of this information for each product submission is necessary due to the length of time needed to test the product (18 to 24 months) and need to ensure that products are safe and effective prior to purchase and use.

This information collection and the product evaluation must be conducted on an on-going basis to ensure the Agency can solicit and award contracts in a timely manner to provide firefighters with safe and effective wildland fire chemical products.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 3.6 hours.

Type of Respondents: Manufacturers (and their suppliers) of long-term fire retardant for wildland firefighting.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 3.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 32.4 hours.

Comment Is Invited

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is appropriate for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request toward Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: September 14, 2011.

Robin L. Thompson,

Associate Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Information Collection; Qualified Products List for Class A Foams for Wildland Firefighting**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension (without revision) of a currently approved information collection, Qualified Products List for Class A Foams for Wildland Firefighting.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before November 21, 2011 to be assured of consideration.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Victoria Henderson, Branch Director, Equipment and Chemicals, U.S. Forest Service, National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S. Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 208-387-5398 or by e-mail to: thenderson@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), Jack Wilson Building, Boise, Idaho, Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 208-387-5348 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cecilia Johnson, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC), 406-329-4819, Shirley Zylstra (MTDC), 406-329-4859, or Tory Henderson, NIFC, 208-387-5348. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Qualified Products List for Class A Foam for Wildland Firefighting.

OMB Number: 0596-0183.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 29, 2012.

Type of Request: Extension without revision.

Abstract: The Forest Service and cooperating wildland firefighting agencies need adequate types and quantities of qualified fire chemical products available to accomplish fire management activities as safely and effectively as possible. To accomplish this objective, the Agency evaluates and pre-approves commercial wildland firefighting chemicals. The Agency may be required to submit the formulations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries during the evaluation process. All products must meet the requirements of specifications identified and maintained by the Wildland Fire Chemical Systems (WFCS) staff at the Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC). After a product evaluation has been completed successfully, the product is added to the Qualified Products List (QPL) for the appropriate product type. All Forest Service procurements of wildland fire chemicals are made from these lists. To initiate an evaluation, product manufacturers (or authorized suppliers) enter into an agreement with the Forest Service and pay all costs associated with the submission and evaluation of the product. Once the agreement is in place and funds are deposited to cover the associated costs, the manufacturer submits the following information to WFCS:

1. List of the specific ingredients and quantity used to prepare the product,
2. Identification of the source of supply for each ingredient,

3. Copies of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product and for each ingredient used to prepare the product, and

4. Specific mixing requirements and performance information.

Review of the submitted information assures that the product does not contain ingredients meeting the criteria for Chemicals of Concern, *i.e.*, by appearing on one or more of the following lists:

Agency list of unacceptable ingredients.

National Toxicology Program (NTP) "Annual Report on Carcinogens."

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs for Potential Carcinogens.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) "List of Extremely Hazardous Substances and Their Threshold Planning Quantities."

A risk assessment, performed at the manufacturer expense, may be required. When a risk assessment is necessary, a third party selected by the Agency assesses the products and levels of ingredients found in typical applications relative to human and environmental impact. Each product submitted is tested to determine the mammalian and aquatic toxicity of the product and must meet specific levels of performance to minimize potential risk during firefighting operations.

Additional tests are performed to determine the effectiveness of the product to reduce spread rate and intensity of the fire by application directly on or near the fire. A number of product characteristics are measured over the operational performance range of the product to ensure that the product meets the needs of the firefighters in the field. The collection of this information for each product submission is necessary due to the length of time needed to test the product (18 to 24 months) and need to ensure that products are safe and effective prior to purchase and use. This information collection and the product evaluation must be conducted on an on-going basis to ensure the Agency can solicit and award contracts in a timely manner to provide firefighters with safe and effective wildland fire chemical products.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 2.8 hours.

Type of Respondents: Manufacturers (and their suppliers) of Class A Foams for Wildland Firefighting.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 2.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.