

Observer Program, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) collects the data necessary to conserve and manage the groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska. Observers collect biological samples and fishery-dependent information used to estimate total catch and interactions with protected species. Managers use data collected by observers to manage groundfish and prohibited species catch within established limits and to document and reduce fishery interactions with protected resources. Scientists use observer data to assess fish stocks, to provide scientific information for fisheries and ecosystem research and fishing fleet behavior, to assess marine mammal interactions with fishing gear, and to assess fishing interactions with habitat.

All vessels and processors that participate in federally managed or parallel groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska are assigned to one of two categories: (1) The full observer coverage category, where vessels and processors obtain observer coverage by contracting directly with observer providers; or (2) the partial coverage category, where NMFS, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council determines when and where observer coverage is needed. Some vessels and processors may be in full coverage for part of the year and partial coverage at other times of the year depending on the observer coverage requirements for specific fisheries. Funds for deploying observers on vessels in the partial coverage category are provided through a system of fees based on the gross ex-vessel value of retained groundfish and halibut. This observer fee is assessed on all landings by vessels that are not otherwise in full coverage. Information collected for the observer fee is approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0711.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion, weekly and annually.

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

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: November 23, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-25917 Filed 11-27-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; External Needs Assessment for NOAA Education Products and Programs

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce 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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 28, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at pracomment@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Bruce Moravchik, National Ocean Service (NOS), 1305 East-West Hwy., Bldg. SSMC4, Silver Springs, MD 20910-3278, (240) 533-0874, bruce.moravchik@noaa.gov or Shannon Ricles, NOS, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, 100 Museum Dr., Newport News, VA 23602, (757) 591-7328, shannon.ricles@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new voluntary information collection.

NOAA Office of Education is sponsoring a voluntary multi-question survey to assess the needs of educators pertaining to future NOAA multimedia products and programs. In developing multimedia materials that convey NOAA's science, service and stewardship, the Agency must insure that these resources are of the highest quality and meet the needs of formal and informal educators across the

United States. To achieve this goal, it will be necessary to conduct surveys identifying the types of educational programs and products of the highest interest and greatest need by formal and informal educators. By surveying external educators to gather this information, budget expenditures will be used optimally to develop appropriate products and programs most desired by educators to support and enhance Ocean, Earth science, and related STEM education subjects throughout our nation.

II. Method of Collection

The voluntary needs assessment mechanism will be distributed via email with a link to a Google form to external educators subscribed to NOAA education programs as well as their partners email distribution lists. The voluntary needs assessment mechanism will also be distributed in person (paper and electronically) at education conferences, workshops, and other venues hosting educators.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: New information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000 annually.

Estimated Time per Response: Five minutes per survey.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 83 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.00 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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 shall 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, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection;

they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 23, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–25918 Filed 11–27–18; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[CPSC Docket No. 19–C0002]

EKO Development, Ltd. and EKO USA, LLC, Provisional Acceptance of a Settlement Agreement and Order

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: It is the policy of the Commission to publish settlements which it provisionally accepts under the terms of the Consumer Product Safety Act in the **Federal Register** in accordance with the terms of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's regulations. Published below is a provisionally-accepted Settlement Agreement with EKO Development, Ltd. and EKO USA, LLC, containing a civil penalty in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), subject to the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement.¹

DATES: Any interested person may ask the Commission not to accept this agreement or otherwise comment on its contents by filing a written request with the Office of the Secretary by December 13, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to comment on this Settlement Agreement should send written comments to Comment 19–C0002, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Room 820, Bethesda, Maryland 20814–4408.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele Melnick, Trial Attorney, Division of Compliance, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814–4408; telephone (301) 504–7592.

¹ The Commission voted 3–2 to provisionally accept the proposed Settlement Agreement and Order regarding EKO Development, Ltd. and EKO USA, LLC. Acting Chairman Buerkle, Commissioner Baiocco and Commissioner Feldman voted to provisionally accept the Settlement Agreement and Order. Commissioner Adler and Commissioner Kaye voted to take other action. Commissioner Adler and Commissioner Kaye submitted a joint dissenting opinion regarding the matter. The dissenting opinion is available on the CPSC website, www.cpsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the Agreement and Order appears below.

Dated: November 23, 2018.

Alberta E. Mills,
Secretary.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

In the Matter of: EKO DEVELOPMENT, LTD. and EKO USA, LLC
CPSC Docket No.: 19–C0002

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. In accordance with the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2051–2089 (“CPSA”) and 16 C.F.R. § 1118.20, EKO Development, Ltd. and EKO USA, LLC (collectively, “EKO”) and the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (“Commission”), through its staff, hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”). The Agreement and the incorporated attached Order resolve staff's charges set forth below.

THE PARTIES

2. The Commission is an independent federal regulatory agency, established pursuant to, and responsible for, the enforcement of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2051–2089. By executing the Agreement, staff is acting on behalf of the Commission, pursuant to 16 C.F.R. § 1118.20(b). The Commission issues the Order under the provisions of the CPSA.

3. EKO Development, Ltd. (“EKO Development”) is a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of China, with its principal place of business in China. EKO USA, LLC (“EKO USA”) is a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the state of Nevada, with its principal place of business in Stuart, Florida.

STAFF CHARGES

4. Between November 2013 and May 2015, EKO manufactured approximately 367,000 EKO Sensible Eco Living Trash Cans (“Subject Products” or “Trash Cans”). The Trash Cans are 80 liter stainless steel, metal-cylinder Trash Cans with a black plastic protective collar in the opening on the back of the Trash Can.

5. The Trash Cans were sold exclusively at Costco Wholesale Corporation at its warehouse stores throughout the United States from December 2013 through May 2015.

6. The Trash Cans are a “consumer product,” “distribut[ed] in commerce,” as those terms are defined or used in sections 3(a)(5) and (8) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2052(a)(5) and (8). EKO is a “manufacturer” as such term is defined

in section 3(a)(11) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2052(a)(11).

7. The Trash Cans contain a defect which could create a substantial product hazard or create an unreasonable risk of serious injury because the black plastic protective collar in the opening on the back of the Trash Can can detach from the sharp metal handle, posing a laceration hazard to consumers.

8. Beginning in April 2014, EKO received complaints from consumers who received laceration injuries, including some serious injuries as defined in 16 C.F.R. § 1115.6(c), from the sharp metal handle of the Trash Cans.

9. In August 2014, EKO approved a design change to the Trash Cans to add a two-piece plastic handle cover to address the laceration hazard. The design change was implemented on the Trash Cans that were produced in August 2014 and shipped to Costco in September 2014.

10. Despite having information that reasonably supported the conclusion that the Trash Cans contained a defect or created an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death, EKO did not notify the Commission immediately of such defect or risk, as required by sections 15(b)(3) and (4) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2064(b)(3) and (4).

11. EKO and the CPSC jointly announced a recall of 367,000 Trash Cans on July 17, 2015, because the Trash Cans posed a laceration risk to consumers.

12. In failing to immediately inform the Commission about the defect or unreasonable risk associated with the Trash Cans, EKO knowingly violated section 19(a)(4) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2068(a)(4), as the term “knowingly” is defined in section 20(d) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2069(d).

13. Pursuant to Section 20 of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2069, EKO is subject to civil penalties for its knowing violation of section 19(a)(4) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2068(a)(4).

RESPONSE OF EKO

14. EKO's settlement of this matter does not constitute an admission of staff's charges as set forth in paragraphs 4 through 13 above.

15. EKO Development, Ltd. is a small Chinese company based in Guangzhou, China. EKO was completely unaware of the CPSC reporting requirements. EKO relied upon its third party insurance administrator to handle the claims received from consumers and was never advised of the potential obligation to report under sections 15(b)(3) and (4) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b)(3) and (4).