

Dated: January 13, 2020.

Miguelina Perez,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2020-00686 Filed 1-16-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0022; OMB No. 1660-0134]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Preparedness Activity Registration and Feedback

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will submit the information collection abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget for review and clearance in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The submission will describe the nature of the information collection, the categories of respondents, the estimated burden (*i.e.*, the time, effort and resources used by respondents to respond) and cost, and the actual data collection instruments FEMA will use.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 18, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. Comments should be addressed to the Desk Officer for the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and sent via electronic mail to dhsdeskofficer@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be made to Director, Information Management Division, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, email address FEMA-Information-Collections-Management@fema.dhs.gov or Christi Collins, AICP, Branch Chief, Preparedness Behavior Change, Individual and Community Preparedness Division (ICPD), National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA, DHS,

400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20024, 202.615.9865. Christi.collins@fema.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposed information collection previously published in the **Federal Register** on November 8, 2019 at 84 FR 60403. No comments were received. The purpose of this notice is to notify the public that FEMA will submit the information collection abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget for review and clearance.

Collection of Information

Title: Preparedness Activity Registration and Feedback.

Type of Information Collection: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

OMB Number: 1660-0134 (and moving a survey from Generic Clearance, 1660-0130).

Form Titles and Numbers: FEMA Form 008-0-8 (Preparedness Activity Registration) and FEMA Form 519-0-11 (Preparedness Activity Feedback Form).

Abstract: This collection will allow ICPD to gather the following information from the public via web form(s):

- *Feedback:* General feedback on the effectiveness of national FEMA preparedness programs and initiatives and website user experience
- *Activity Details:* Information regarding the type, size and location of preparedness activities hosted by members of the public and community organizers
- *POC Information:* For registration within the site and follow-on communication, if needed
- *Future Engagement Requests:* Allow for the public to enroll in the ICPD newsletter or other public communications
- *Publication Ordering:* Submitting requests to the FEMA publication warehouse to have materials shipped directly to members of the public

To fulfill its mission FEMA's ICPD collects information from individuals and organizations by the Preparedness Activity Registration Form and the Preparedness Activity Feedback Form located within a public website (called the "Preparedness Portal"). This collection facilitates FEMA's ability to assess its progress for the following programs:

- Ready 2 Help (www.ready.gov/game)
- You Are the Help Until Help Arrives (www.ready.gov/until-help-arrives)
- Event Registration (www.ready.gov/prepare) (includes Prepareathon event registration)

- Collections where ICPD partners with other National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) offices

As new programs or initiatives are created, ICPD will leverage the pre-approved questions in the question bank provided for this collection. Known future activities include:

- Community-Based Organization Continuity and Resilience Training
- Website User Experience Feedback

ICPD uses this information to inform the continuous improvement of the programs and the Division's outreach. Further, the information allows the Division to analyze seasonal trends in preparedness across the variety of programs. Raw data is not shared outside of the database; only results of the data assessment is shared. The data is used for internal reports as well as public-facing talking points.

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Affected Public: Individuals, organizations and groups who wish to register for ICPD Preparedness activities to take advantage of FEMA's related resources and available supporting materials.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 86,115.

Estimated Number of Responses: 86,115.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7,174.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost: \$196,424.

Estimated Respondents' Operation and Maintenance Costs: There are no operation and maintenance costs for respondents.

Estimated Respondents' Capital and Start-Up Costs: There are no capital and start-up costs for respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to the Federal Government: \$12,205.

Comments

Comments may be submitted as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** caption

above. Comments are solicited to (a) evaluate whether the proposed data collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Maile Arthur,

*Deputy Director of Information Management,
Mission Support, Federal Emergency
Management Agency, Department of
Homeland Security.*

[FR Doc. 2020-00711 Filed 1-16-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-27-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. DHS-2011-0108]

RIN 1601-ZA11

Identification of Foreign Countries Whose Nationals Are Eligible To Participate in the H-2A and H-2B Nonimmigrant Worker Programs

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may generally only approve petitions for H-2A and H-2B nonimmigrant status for nationals of countries that the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, has designated by notice published in the **Federal Register**. That notice must be renewed each year. This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is identifying 84 countries whose nationals are eligible to participate in the H-2A program and 81 countries whose nationals are eligible to participate in the H-2B program for the coming year.

DATES: The designations in this notice are effective from January 19, 2020, and shall be without effect after January 18, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ihsan Gunduz, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528, (202) 282-9708.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Generally, USCIS may approve H-2A and H-2B petitions for nationals of only those countries that the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, has designated as participating countries.¹ Such designation must be published as a notice in the **Federal Register** and expires after one year. In designating countries to include on the list, the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, will take into account factors including, but not limited to: (1) The country's cooperation with respect to issuance of travel documents for citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents of that country who are subject to a final order of removal; (2) the number of final and unexecuted orders of removal against citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents of that country; (3) the number of orders of removal executed against citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents of that country; and (4) such other factors as may serve the U.S. interest. See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5)(i)(F)(1)(i) and 8 CFR 214.2(h)(6)(i)(E)(1). Examples of factors serving the U.S. interest that could result in the exclusion of a country or the removal of a country from the list include, but are not limited to: Fraud, abuse, nonimmigrant overstay² rates (including but not limited to H-2 nonimmigrants), and other forms of non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the H-2 visa programs by nationals of that country.

¹ With respect to all references to "country" or "countries" in this document, it should be noted that the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, Public Law 96-8, Section 4(b)(1), provides that "[w]henver the laws of the United States refer or relate to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with respect to Taiwan." 22 U.S.C. 3303(b)(1). Accordingly, all references to "country" or "countries" in the regulations governing whether nationals of a country are eligible for H-2 program participation, 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5)(i)(F)(1)(i) and 8 CFR 214.2(h)(6)(i)(E)(1), are read to include Taiwan. This is consistent with the United States' one-China policy, under which the United States has maintained unofficial relations with Taiwan since 1979.

² An overstay occurs when a nonimmigrant who was lawfully admitted to the United States for an authorized period remains in the United States beyond his or her authorized period of admission. For purposes of this **Federal Register** Notice, DHS uses FY 2018 U.S. Customs and Border Protection H-2A and H-2B nonimmigrant overstay data.

USCIS, however, may allow, on a case-by-case basis, a national from a country that is not on the list to be named as a beneficiary of an H-2A or H-2B petition based on a determination that such participation is in the U.S. interest. Determination of such U.S. interest will take into account factors, including but not limited to: (1) Evidence from the petitioner demonstrating that a worker with the required skills is not available either from among U.S. workers or from among foreign workers from a country currently on the list described in 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5)(i)(F)(1)(i) (H-2A nonimmigrants) or 214.2(h)(6)(1)(E)(1) (H-2B nonimmigrants), as applicable; (2) evidence that the beneficiary has been admitted to the United States previously in H-2A or H-2B status; (3) the potential for abuse, fraud, or other harm to the integrity of the H-2A or H-2B visa program through the potential admission of a beneficiary from a country not currently on the list; and (4) such other factors as may serve the U.S. interest. See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5)(i)(F)(1)(i) and 8 CFR 214.2(h)(6)(i)(E)(2).

In December 2008, DHS published in the **Federal Register** two notices, "Identification of Foreign Countries Whose Nationals Are Eligible to Participate in the H-2A Visa Program," and "Identification of Foreign Countries Whose Nationals Are Eligible to Participate in the H-2B Visa Program," which designated 28 countries whose nationals were eligible to participate in the H-2A and H-2B programs. See 73 FR 77043 (Dec. 18, 2008); 73 FR 77729 (Dec. 19, 2008). The notices ceased to have effect on January 17, 2010, and January 18, 2010, respectively. See 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5)(i)(F)(2) and 8 CFR 214.2(h)(6)(i)(E)(3). In implementing these regulatory provisions, the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, has published a series of notices on a regular basis. See 75 FR 2879 (Jan. 19, 2010) (adding 11 countries); 76 FR 2915 (Jan. 18, 2011) (removing 1 country and adding 15 countries); 77 FR 2558 (Jan. 18, 2012) (adding 5 countries); 78 FR 4154 (Jan. 18, 2013) (adding 1 country); 79 FR 3214 (Jan. 17, 2014) (adding 4 countries); 79 FR 74735 (Dec. 16, 2014) (adding 5 countries); 80 FR 72079 (Nov. 18, 2015) (removing 1 country from the H-2B program and adding 16 countries); 81 FR 74468 (Oct. 26, 2016) (adding 1 country); 83 FR 2646 (Jan. 18, 2018) (removing 3 countries and adding 1 country); 84 FR 133 (Jan. 18, 2019) (removing 2 countries from both the H-2A program