

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2006

Contact: OMB Communications, (202) 395-7254

OMB POSTS PROGRESS REPORTS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, MANUFACTURERS, & CONGRESS TRACK ONGOING REGULATORY REFORM

WASHINGTON – Today the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced that Federal agencies are on track to complete reforms made to manufacturing regulations.

The regulatory reforms are intended to lower costs, improve effectiveness, and increase flexibility for small manufacturers while still maintaining important protections for public health and the environment. OMB will post progress summaries on its public Web site on a timely and regular basis in order to help Congress and small business manufacturers monitor these changes.

In February, 2004, OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) encouraged the submission of public nominations of specific regulations, guidance documents, and paperwork requirements that would help ease unnecessary regulatory burdens on America's manufacturers, particularly small manufacturers.

In response to the solicitation made by its draft 2004 Report to Congress, OMB received 189 separate nominations, and OMB and the respective rulemaking agencies then identified 76 priority nominations of reform, which OMB announced in March 2005. Today's chart indicates that 39 of the reforms have been reviewed and implemented. All reforms are expected to be closed out by 2008, and in order to help the public stay current on these regulatory developments as they occur, OMB will continue to provide periodic updates.

"It is important that we continue to work to eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses and manufacturers, as we also continue to ensure that vital protections to the environment and the public health are upheld. Small businesses and manufacturers are on the frontline of the economy and job creation and are the laboratories for innovation. When they thrive, our economy thrives," said Steve Aitken, Acting OIRA Administrator. "As important reforms are made, we believe it is important to keep the regulatory process transparent and easily accessible to Congress, stakeholders, and the general public. OMB will continue to work with Federal agencies to ensure the public has the most up-to-date information as reforms are implemented."

The progress report can be found on OMB's website: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/regpol-reports_congress.html