

authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities for both CDC and ATSDR.

Dated: June 23, 2003.

**John Burckhardt,**

*Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Notice of Meeting**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Announces the Following Meeting.

*Name:* Review and Discussion of Draft Document: Criteria for a Recommended Standard—Occupational Exposure to Refractory Ceramic Fibers.

*Time and Date:* 9 a.m.–4 p.m., August 19, 2003.

*Place:* Robert A. Taft Laboratories, Taft Auditorium, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

*Status:* Forum will include scientists and representatives from various government agencies, industry, labor, and other stakeholders, and is open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates 50 people. Due to limited space, notification of intent to attend the meeting must be made with Karen Dragon no later than Tuesday, August 5, 2003. Ms. Dragon can be reached by telephone at 513/533-8303 or by email at [ked2@cdc.gov](mailto:ked2@cdc.gov). Requests to attend the meeting will be accommodated on a first-come basis.

*Purpose:* To discuss current research with refractory ceramic fibers (RCFs) and specific issues related to the scientific and technical information presented in the criteria document. Special emphasis will be placed on discussion of the following:

- (1) What we can learn from animal studies with RCFs and associated health effects or other biological endpoints;
- (2) What we can learn from epidemiological studies with RCFs and associated health effects or other biological endpoints;
- (3) Strategies to control occupational exposure to RCFs (e.g., engineering controls, work practices, recommended exposure limit, action limit, personal protective equipment, and specific industries or job functions where controlling exposures is more challenging);
- (4) Areas for future collaborative efforts (e.g., research, communication, outreach, and information dissemination, development and

dissemination of additional engineering control technologies).

The public is invited to attend and will have the opportunity to provide comments.

*Contact Person for General Information:* Karen Dragon, Education and Information Division, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone 513/533-8303, fax 513/533-8285, e-mail [ked2@cdc.gov](mailto:ked2@cdc.gov).

*Contact Person for Technical Information:* Thomas Lentz, Education and Information Division, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-32, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone 513/533-8260, fax 513/533-8230, e-mail [tbl7@cdc.gov](mailto:tbl7@cdc.gov).

Written research, data, or supporting materials to be considered, distributed, or discussed during the meeting should be submitted to the NIOSH Docket Office, ATTN: Diane Miller, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C-32, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone 513/533-8450, fax 513/533-8230. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: [NIODOCKET@CDC.GOV](mailto:NIODOCKET@CDC.GOV). E-mail attachments should be formatted as WordPerfect 6/7/8/9, or Microsoft Word. Comments should be submitted to NIOSH no later than August 5, 2003, and should reference docket number NIOSH-009 in the subject heading.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign Federal Register notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: June 23, 2003.

**John Burckhardt,**

*Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

**[CMS-1257-N]**

**Medicare Program: Notice of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council Rechartering**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the rechartering of Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council). In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2), this notice announces that as of June 12, 2003 the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council) has been rechartered for a 2-year period, through June 12, 2005. The charter will

terminate on June 12, 2005, unless the Council is rechartered by the Secretary.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Diana Motsiopoulos, Administrative Coordinator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Blvd., Mail Stop: C4-11-27, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850. Telephone 410-786-3379, fax (410) 786-1710, E-mail: [dmotsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:dmotsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) is mandated by section 1868(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act) to appoint a Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council) based on nominations submitted by medical organizations representing physicians. The Council meets quarterly to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and carrier manual instructions related to physicians' services. To the extent feasible and consistent with statutory deadlines, the consultation must occur before the publication of the proposed changes. The Council submits its recommendations in an annual report to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services no later than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians, each of whom has submitted at least 250 claims for physician services under Medicare in the previous year. At least 11 members of the Council must be physicians as described in Section 1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy. The other 4 Council members may include dentists, podiatrists, optometrists and chiropractors. The Council includes both participating and nonparticipating physicians, as well as physicians practicing in rural and underserved urban areas. Members serve for overlapping 4-year terms; terms of more than 2 years are contingent upon the renewal of the Council by appropriate action prior to its termination.

Section 1868(a) of the Act provides that nominations to the Secretary for Council membership must be made by medical organizations representing physicians.

**I. Provisions of This Notice**

This notice announces the signing of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (PPAC) charter (recharter) by the Secretary. The charter will terminate on June 12, 2005, unless rechartered before the expiration date.