

and in trade negotiations with other countries. In the private sector, uses of the Import Price Indexes include market analysis, inflation forecasting, contract escalation, and replacement cost accounting.

The International Price Program indexes are viewed as a sensitive indicator of the economic environment. The Department of Commerce uses the monthly statistics to produce monthly and quarterly estimates of inflation-adjusted trade flows. Without continuation of data collection, it would be extremely difficult to construct accurate estimates of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. In addition, Federal policy-makers in the Department of the Treasury, the Council of Economic Advisors, and the Federal Reserve Board

utilize these statistics on a regular basis to improve these agencies' formulation and evaluation of monetary and fiscal policy, and evaluation of the general business environment.

Current Actions

The IPP continues to modernize data collection and processing to permit more timely release of its indexes and to reduce reporter burden. The IPP is using the telephone rather than personal visits for new item initiation in limited situations. We believe that initiation by telephone reduces reporting burden with no loss in response. Other potential initiation techniques to reduce burden being reviewed include less frequent sampling of more stable item areas, use of broader item areas in

certain cases, and retention of items initiated in previous samples. To reduce the time required for processing new items, direct entry of initiation data from the field will be tested. Also, for repricing, the use of fax telephone lines to permit direct collection and entry into our database is being considered. In addition, use of the Internet for monthly repricing is being reviewed, contingent upon the resolution of questions relating to the security of the data.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: International Price Program/U.S. Import Product Information.

OMB Number: 1220-0026.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average time per response (hours)	Estimated total burden (hours)
Form 2894B	1725	Annually	1725	1	1725
Form 3008	1725	Annually	1725	.334	576.15
Form 3007D	3235	Monthly, quarterly	38540	.56	21582.4
Total	4960		41,990		23884

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 18th day of December, 1997.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.

Chief, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[FR Doc. 97-33445 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Washington State Standards; Notice of Approval

1. Background

Part 1953 of Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations prescribes procedures under Section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (hereinafter called the Act) by which the Regional Administrator for Occupational Safety and Health

(hereinafter called Regional Administrator) under a delegation of authority from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health (hereinafter called the Assistant Secretary) (29 CFR 1953.4) will review and approve standards promulgated pursuant to a State plan which has been approved in accordance with Section 18(c) of the Act and 29 CFR part 1902. On January 26, 1973, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (38 FR 2421) of the approval of the Washington plan and the adoption of subpart F to part 1952 containing the decision.

The Washington plan provides for the adoption of State standards that are at least as effective as comparable Federal standards promulgated under Section 6 of the Act. Section 1953.20 provides that where any alteration in the Federal program could have an adverse impact on the at least as effective as status of the State program, a program change supplement to a State plan shall be required.

In response to Federal standard changes, the State has submitted by letter dated November 6, 1986, from Richard A. Davis, Director, to James W. Lake, Regional Administrator, a State standard at WAC 296-56 comparable to the Federal Marine Terminal standard 29 CFR 1917, as published in the

Federal Register (48 FR 30886) on July 5, 1983. The State's submission was adopted on December 11, 1984, effective January 10, 1985, under Washington Administrative Order 84-24. National Office review revealed discrepancies and the submission was returned to the State for correction. On November 23, 1992, the State resubmitted its Marine Terminal standard, consolidating all action taken on the standard to date and including the changes necessary to correct the discrepancies previously identified. The State's consolidated standard was adopted on October 30, 1992, effective December 8, 1992, under Washington Administrative Order 92-06. Significant differences are: The scope of the standard is expanded to include all waterfront operations; the definition of confined spaces is broader; the railroad facilities standard, WAC 296-56-60019, only applies to standard gauge railroad operations since there are no other gauge railroads in the State and the State referenced its multipiece and single piece rim standards which are as effective as OSHA's. The State also included the following standards and additions not contained in the federal standard: requirements for an accident prevention program; additional slinging requirements; additional line handling requirements; additional railroad operation requirements; additional log

handling requirements; inclusion of explosive requirements; specific first aid and first aid kit requirements; additional machinery operator requirements; additional auxiliary gear requirements; additional cargo handling gear tables; cargo board and other type pallet board requirements; additional industrial truck requirements; safety latches for hooks requirements; crane control requirements; additional crane requirements; additional requirements for communication for the crane operator; additional chute and conveyor requirements; additional material handling equipment certification requirements; additional requirements while working near water; additional terminal facility maintenance requirements; fall protection requirements; requirements for docks and dock facilities; requirements for access to vessels; requirements for electric and hand powered manlifts; Jacob's ladder requirements; additional employee exit requirements; additional illumination requirements; requirements for petroleum docks, boat marinas and canneries and cold storage docks and standard signals for longshore crane signals.

In response to Federal standard changes, the State has submitted by letter dated February 17, 1995, from Mark O. Brown, Director, to Richard Terrill, Acting Regional Administrator, a State standard comparable to the Federal standard, 1915.7, 1915.11, 1915.12, 1915.13, 1915.14, 1915.15, 1915.16 and Appendix A & B, Confined and Enclosed Spaces and Other Dangerous Atmospheres in Shipyard Employment, published in the **Federal Register** (59 FR 37815) on July 25, 1994. The State standard was adopted on January 18, 1995, effective March 10, 1995, under Administrative Order 94-22. In a letter dated November 17, 1995, from Mark O. Brown, Director, to Richard Terrill, Acting Regional Administrator, and incorporated as part of the plan, the state submitted an amendment identical to 1915.12, 1915.14 and 1915.15 corrections to the Confined and Enclosed Spaces and Other Dangerous Atmospheres in Shipyard Employment, published in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 14218) on March 16, 1995. In the same letter, the State transmitted a State initiated change to its standard WAC 296-304-010, which is the scope and application section of the Confined and Enclosed Spaces and Other Dangerous Atmospheres in Shipyard Employment, to make it identical to the federal standard. The State standard amendments were adopted on October

20, 1995, effective January 16, 1996, under Administrative Order 94-19.

On its own initiative, the State of Washington has submitted by letter dated August 19, 1994, from Mark O. Brown, Director, to James W. Lake, Regional Administrator, amendments to WAC 296-32, Telecommunications. The changes consist of correcting a reference to a section or parts, alternatives to sign wording, elimination of male gender terms, repealing the term "Division of Industrial Safety and Health", and renumbering or lettering of paragraphs to comply with the state code reviser's requirements. The State's submission was adopted on July 20, 1994, with an effective date of September 20, 1994, under Washington Administrative Order 94-07. The original State standard received approval on May 4, 1976 (41 FR 18484).

On its own initiative, the State of Washington has submitted by letter dated November 17, 1995, from Mark O. Brown, Director, to Richard S. Terrill, Acting Regional Administrator, a state standard change to WAC 296-24-13501(2), Color Identification, to be identical to 29 CFR 1910.144(a)(3). The State's submission was adopted on October 20, 1995, with an effective date of January 16, 1996, under Washington Administrative Order 94-16. The original state standard received approval on January 30, 1976 (41 FR 4689) and the revocation of 29 CFR 1910.144(b), received approval on May 21, 1991 (56 FR 23305).

On its own initiative, the State of Washington has submitted by letter dated October 6, 1995, from Mark O. Brown, Director, to Richard S. Terrill, Acting Regional Administrator, an addition of state standard WAC 296-24-19514, Reporting of Injuries to Employees Operating Mechanical Power Presses, to be identical to 29 CFR 1910.217(g). This state standard was inadvertently repealed by Administrative Order 88-11 on July 6, 1988. The State's submission was adopted on August 9, 1995, effective September 25, 1995, under Washington Administrative Order 95-04. The original state standard received approval on May 4, 1976 (41 FR 18484).

On its own initiative, the State of Washington has submitted by letter dated February 12, 1991, from Joseph A. Dear, Director, to James W. Lake, Regional Administrator, an addition of State standard WAC 296.24-76555, Alternating Tread-type Stairs. This amendment incorporated guidelines from WISHA Regional Directive 85-3 for the evaluation and inspection of alternating tread-type fixed industrial stairs, and was adopted in response to

OSHA Instruction STD 1-1.11. (The Federal standard does not include alternating tread-type stairs.) The State's submission was adopted January 10, 1991, effective February 12, 1991, under Washington Administrative Order 90-18. In a letter dated September 8, 1992, from Joseph A. Dear, Director to James W. Lake, Regional Administrator, minor changes to the standard were made. The State's submission was adopted on August 10, 1992, effective September 10, 1992, under Washington Administrative Order 92-06.

The administrative orders were adopted pursuant to RCW 34.04.040(2), 49.17.040, 49.17.050, Public Meetings Act RCW 42.30, Administrative Procedures Act RCW 34.04, and the State Register Act RCW 34.08. The changes were incorporated as part of the State plan.

2. Decision

OSHA has determined that the State standards for Marine Terminals, Confined Spaces for Shipyards, and Alternating Tread-type Stairs are at least as effective as the comparable Federal standards, as required by Section 18(c)(2) of the Act. The State's Marine Terminals standard, as amended, has been in effect since January 10, 1985 and December 8, 1992; the Confined Spaces for Shipyards standard has been in effect since March 10, 1995; and the Alternating Tread-type Stair standard has been in effect since February 12, 1991. During this time OSHA has received no indication of significant objection to these different State standards either as to their effectiveness in comparison to the Federal standards or as to their conformance with product clause requirements of section 18(c)(2) of the Act. (A different State standard applicable to a product which is distributed or used in interstate commerce must be required by compelling local conditions and not unduly burden interstate commerce.) OSHA therefore approves these standards; however, the right to reconsider this approval is reserved should substantial objections be submitted to the Assistant Secretary.

OSHA has also determined that the differences between the State and Federal amendments for Telecommunications are minimal and thus are substantially identical. OSHA therefore approves this amendment; however, the right to reconsider this approval is reserved should substantial objections be submitted to the Assistant Secretary. OSHA has further determined that the State's amendments for Confined Spaces in Shipyards, Mechanical Power Presses, and Color

Identification are identical to the comparable Federal amendments, and therefore approves the amendments.

3. Location of Supplement for Inspection and Copying

A copy of the standards supplement, along with the approved plan, may be inspected and copied during normal business hours at the following locations: Office of the Regional Administrator, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1111 Third Avenue, Suite 715, Seattle, Washington 98101-3212; State of Washington Department of Labor and Industries, WISHA Services Division, 7273 Linderson Way, S.W., Tumwater, Washington 98501; and the Office of State Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room N-3476, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. For electronic copies of this **Federal Register** notice, contact OSHA's WebPage at <http://www.osha.gov/>.

4. Public Participation

Under 29 CFR 1953.2(c), the Assistant Secretary may prescribe alternative procedures to expedite the review process or for other good cause which may be consistent with applicable laws. The Assistant Secretary finds that good cause exists for not publishing the supplement to the Washington State Plan as a proposed change and making the Regional Administrator's approval effective upon publication for the following reason: The standards and amendments were adopted in accordance with the procedural requirements of State law and further public participation would be repetitious.

This decision is effective December 23, 1997. (Sec. 18, Pub. L. 91-596, 84 STAT. 6108 [29 U.S.C. 667])

Signed at Seattle, Washington, this 27th day of October 1997.

Richard S. Terrill,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-33388 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-P

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Electronic Records Work Group; Availability of Materials for Review and Comment; Request for Comment

AGENCY: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of materials for public review and comment; request for comment.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information on where the public may obtain copies of materials prepared for and by the Electronic Records Work Group and summaries of the Work Group meetings. It also describes how to provide comments to the Work Group, and solicits comments on issues that the Work Group should address. The Electronic Records Work Group is charged with identifying workable alternatives to the disposition practices currently authorized under NARA's General Records Schedule 20 for Electronic Records.

All materials prepared for the Electronic Records Work Group and related information on their activities will be posted on NARA's GRS 20 Internet Web page at <http://www.nara.gov/records/grs20/>. Individuals who do not have Internet access may call the person indicated in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to request paper copies of these materials.

DATES: Comments on the preliminary list of issues must be received by January 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent electronically to the e-mail address grs20@arch2.nara.gov. If you do not have access to e-mail, comments may be mailed to Electronic Records Work Group (NWR), Room 2100, 8601 Adelphi Rd., College Park, MD 20740-6001, or faxed to 301-713-6850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request paper copies of materials posted on the GRS 20 Internet Web page, contact Jean Cooke at 301-713-7110, extension 228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The initial meeting of the Electronic Records Work Group was held on December 19, 1997. At that meeting, the Work Group received a list of issues to be discussed by the Work Group and a list of resources on which the Group should draw in dealing with records disposition issues. Members of the Work Group, consultants to the project, and interested members of the public are asked to recommend additions to, or other changes in the issues to be discussed and the list of resources by January 9, 1998. Following is the list of issues:

Preliminary List of Issues To Be Addressed by the Electronic Records Work Group

The Electronic Records Work Group is charged with developing a practical, implementable approach to replacing the disposition authorities currently provided by GRS 20. This issues list is a "first cut" at identifying those issues

which need to be addressed as part of the project. The list is meant to stimulate discussion and lead to the identification of other issues. Comments on the list and suggestions for additions should be sent to the NARA through its web page at www.nara.gov/records/grs20 or by fax to Michael Miller at 301-713-6850.

Scope of the GRS

1. The GRS, including GRS-20, should cover only administrative records. How should administrative records be defined and how should the programmatic records excluded from GRS-20 be scheduled?

2. How should the GRS fit into the overall spectrum of disposition guidance and authorization? What other approaches are there for developing disposition authorities for records common to several agencies?

3. Is there a role for a specific GRS covering records used to operate and manage central computer facilities and local area networks? If so what should that GRS include?

4. Is there a rationale for not applying the GRS to electronic records of some agencies?

Implementation Issues

5. What implementation options are available to agencies now and for the next 5-7 years and into the future?

6. If records in an application system such as email or word processing are not arranged according to the agency filing system, how does one go about implementing a disposition schedule?

7. Is it possible to schedule the disposition of individual records (documents) in word processing and e-mail applications? If not, what are the alternatives?

8. What approaches are there for replacing the disposition "delete (or destroy) when no longer needed?"

9. Do agency staff have a difficult time understanding and applying GRS 20? If so, what lessons should be applied to developing the replacement?

Dated: December 19, 1997.

Lewis J. Bellardo,

Deputy Archivist of the United States.

[FR Doc. 97-33651 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7515-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment request

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).