FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Charges for Certain Disclosures

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice Regarding Charges for Certain Disclosures.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission announces that the current $9.00 ceiling on allowable charges under section 612(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (''FCRA'') will remain unchanged for 2003. Under 1996 amendments to the FCRA, the Federal Trade Commission is required to increase the $8.00 amount referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) of section 612(a) on January 1 of each year, based proportionally on changes in the Consumer Price Index (''CPI''), with fractional changes rounded to the nearest fifty cents. The CPI increased 12.28 percent between September 1997, the date the FCRA amendments took effect, and September 2002. This increase in the CPI and the requirement that any increase be rounded to the nearest fifty cents results in no change in the current maximum allowable charge of $9.00.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Federal Trade Commission, 600 PA. Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith B. Anderson, Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, 202–326–3428.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 612(a)(1)(A) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, as amended in 1996, states that, where a consumer reporting agency is permitted to impose a reasonable charge on a consumer for making a disclosure to the consumer pursuant to section 609, the charge shall not exceed $8 and shall be indicated to the consumer before making the disclosure. Section 612(a)(2) goes on to state that the Federal Trade Commission (''the Commission'') shall increase the $8.00 maximum amount on January 1 of each year, based proportionally on changes in the Consumer Price Index, with fractional changes rounded to the nearest fifty cents.

The Commission considers the $8 amount referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) of section 612(a) to be the baseline for the effective ceiling on reasonable charges dating from the effective date of the amended FCRA, *i.e.*, September 30, 1997. Each year the Commission calculates the proportional increase in the Consumer Price Index (using the most general CPI, which is for all urban consumers, all items) from September 1997 to September of the current year. The Commission then determines what modification, if any, from the original base of $8 should be made effective on January 1 of the subsequent year, given the requirement that fractional changes be rounded to the nearest fifty cents.

Between September 1997 and September 2002, the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and all items increased by 12.28 percent—from an index value of 161.2 in September 1997 to a value of 181.0 in September 2002. An increase of 12.28 percent in the $8.00 base figure would lead to a new figure of $8.98. However, because the statute directs that the resulting figure be rounded to the nearest $0.50, the allowable charge should be $9.00.

The Commission therefore determines that the allowable charge for the year 2003 will remain unchanged at $9.00.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02–31646 Filed 12–16–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Public Workshop: Advertising of Weight Loss Products

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The FTC issues an amendment to its notice announcing publicWorkshop, extending the time period during which persons may submit written comments on the topics discussed by the panelists.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before February 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room 159, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, or e-mailed to *weightloss@ftc.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rona Kelner, (202) 326–2752, *rkelner@ftc.gov,* or Lesley Fair, (202) 326–3081, *lfair@ftc.gov,* Division of Advertising Practices, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. To read the Commission's policy on how it handles the information you may submit, please visit *http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.htm.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

November 19, 2002, Workshop

On November 19, 2002, the FTC held a public workshop on deception in weight-loss advertising. The goal of the workshop was to explore the impact of deceptive weight loss ads and to develop new approaches for combating weight loss advertising fraud. Three panels were convened over the course of the day, each focusing, respectively, on science, industry, and media issues.

The first panel consisted of researchers, academicians, medical professionals, and industry experts who discussed the state of the science regarding weight loss. These panelists evaluated eight common claims found in ads for weight loss products and opined on whether these claims promised results that are not scientifically feasible.

The second panel was comprised of representatives from the weight loss industry, including companies that sell weight loss products and trade associations that represent dietary supplement makers. This panel discussed the problem that deceptive advertising poses for legitimate industry players, and addressed what industry self-regulatory efforts have been, and could be, implemented.

The third panel was made up of media experts and representatives of media organizations and outlets. This panel focused on the role of the media in screening out false and deceptive advertisements, and discussed new approaches to effective media screening.

A detailed agenda, transcript, and other information about the workshop can be found on the FTC's Web site at *http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/workshops/weightloss.*

Form and Availability of Comments

To continue the discussion on this important topic, the FTC is extending the time period during which public comments may be submitted. Interested parties may file written comments on the issues that the panels addressed until February 3, 2003. Comments should be captioned ''Advertising of Weight Loss Products Workshop—Comment, P024527.''

Parties sending written comments should submit an original and two copies of each document. To enable prompt review and public access, paper submissions should include a version on diskette in PDF, ASCII,WordPerfect, or Microsoft Word format. Diskettes should be labeled with the name of the party, and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document. Alternatively, comments may be e-mailed to *weightloss@ftc.gov.*

Written comments will be available for public inspection in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, and FTC regulations, 16 CFR 4.9, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Public Reference Room, Room 130–H, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. This notice and, to the extent possible, all comments will also be posted on the FTC Web site, *http://www.ftc.gov.*

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02–31647 Filed 12–16–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Opportunity for Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) To Develop Novel Mechanical and Biological Treatments in Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine Using X-ray Fluoroscopy and Real-Time Magnetic Resonance Imaging

AGENCY: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces the opportunity for Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) to develop novel mechanical and biological treatments in interventional cardiovascular medicine using x-ray fluoroscopy and real-time magnetic resonance imaging. The NHLBI seeks potential Collaborators wishing to provide expertise in (1) novel biological treatments for cardiovascular disease, including adult-derived stem cell and cardiovascular progenitor cells, (2) novel agents for therapeutic angiogenesis for myocardial or peripheral artery applications, (3) novel mechanisms of drug, gene, or cell delivery to the myocardium or skeletal muscle to treat manifestations of coronary or peripheral artery atherosclerosis, and (4) intravascular devices for real-time magnetic resonance imaging-guided treatments including but not limited to angioplasty balloons, recanalization systems, percutaneous cardiac valves, stents, endografts, and bypass grafts.

The NHLBI seeks capability statements from parties interested in entering into a potential CRADA to manufacture, prototype, and test the above-specified agents or devices leading to early clinical testing and development. Collaborator applicants developing capability statements may also include proposals to provide funding for possible commercial uses of interest to the Collaborator. The availability of private sector support may increase the feasibility of particular aspects of the final design, but the primary criterion for selecting potential collaborators is the scientific merit of proposals for developing a plan to identify novel putative therapeutic agents and devices.

The NHLBI can provide extensive preclinical and clinical support in the development of Collaborator deliverables, including animal experiments, advanced x-ray fluoroscopic and magnetic resonance imaging laboratories, and investigations conducted in the Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center at the Bethesda campus of the National Institutes of Health.

The control of clinical trials shall reside entirely with the Institute and the scientific participants of the trial. In the event that any adverse effects are encountered which, for legal or ethical reasons, may require communication with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the relevant collaborating institutions will be notified. Neither the conduct of the trial nor the results should be represented as an NHLBI endorsement of the agent, drug, or device under study.

DATES: Only written CRADA capability statements received by the NHLBI within 21 days of publication of this notice will be considered during the initial design phase. Confidential information must be clearly labeled. Potential collaborators may be invited to meet with the Selection Committee at the Collaborators' expense to provide additional information. The Institute may issue an additional notice of CRADA opportunity during the design phase if circumstances change or if the design alters substantially.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Capability statements should be submitted to Ms. Peg Koelble, Office of Technology Transfer and Development, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, 31 Center Drive, Room 1B30, Bethesda, MD 20892–2490; Tel: 301–594–4095; Fax: 301–594–3080; e-mail: *koelblep@nhlbi.nih.gov.*

Capability Statements: A Selection Committee will use the information provided in the ''Collaborator Capability Statements'' received in response to this announcement to help in its deliberations. It is the intention of the NHLBI that all qualified Collaborators have the opportunity to provide information to the Selection Committee through their capability statements. The Capability Statement should not exceed 10 pages and should address the following selection criteria:

1. The statement should provide specific details of the method to be used in the development of novel candidate biological treatments, delivery systems, or real-time MRI-guided mechanical treatments for cardiovascular disease.

2. The statement should include a detailed plan demonstrating the ability to provide sufficient capacity in drug, gene, or stem cell development and manufacturing or in mechanical device prototyping, testing, development, and manufacturing.

3. The statement may include outline measures of interest to the Collaborator. The specifics of the proposed outcome measures and the proposed support should include but not be limited to: expertise in the proposed field, specific personnel allocation to the proposed collaboration, specific internal or external funding commitment to support the advancement of scientific research, services, facilities, equipment, or other resources that would contribute to the conduct of the commercial development.

4. The statement must address willingness promptly to publish research results and ability to be bound by PHS intellectual property policies (*see* CRADA: *http://ott.od.nih.gov/newpages/crada.pdf*).

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Carl Roth,

Associate Director for Scientific Program Operation, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

[FR Doc. 02–31630 Filed 12–16–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) Announces the Availability of the Report on Carcinogens, Tenth Edition

The Report on Carcinogens, Tenth Edition was submitted to the Congress by the Secretary HHS and also released publicly on December 11, 2002. It is available on the Internet and can be accessed from the Environmental Health Perspectives web site at: *http://www.ehponline.org* or from the NTP