

Bureau's existing data program operations by producing large-scale special tabulations from confidential Census Bureau microdata.

Once projects are approved, project researchers will be required to obtain Special Sworn Status from the Census Bureau. Obtaining this status requires researchers to undergo a security check, including fingerprinting. Researchers holding Special Sworn Status will be subject to the same criminal penalties as regular Census Bureau employees for disclosure of confidential information. (The penalties are a fine of up to \$5,000, imprisonment for up to five years, or both.) Only persons with Special Sworn Status are allowed access to the RDC facility. Moreover, all research findings must be submitted to Census Bureau personnel for disclosure review prior to release to the public.

The estimate of the annual operating costs is \$250,000 per year, with higher initial costs in the first year to equip the RDC. This estimate is based upon experience at the pilot RDCs and includes (1) costs at the RDC of equipment, software, space, and the salary of the Census Bureau employee stationed at the RDC, and (2) costs of supporting the RDC at Census Bureau headquarters.

RDCs must be self-financing, with funding coming from institutions, foundations, or state support. The NSF is prepared to provide seed money to assist in covering start-up costs associated with establishing RDCs. An organization proposing to establish an RDC can request from the NSF up to \$100,000 per year for a three-year term to cover part of the start-up costs and annual operating costs associated with establishing the RDC. Determinations on these requests will be made by NSF.

RDCs may charge fees to researchers not supported by the NSF to help defray facilities costs. It is the goal of the NSF and the Census Bureau in establishing these centers that these fees will be kept low in order to promote widespread access to the data by the academic community, contingent on sufficient funding to cover annual operating costs. The NSF will continue to provide support through its regular grant competition for faculty time and graduate student assistance on individual research projects that use RDC facilities. NSF-funded individual research projects can be charged access fees once NSF institutional support has been phased out.

Proposals to establish RDCs must follow the standard NSF proposal format. They can be submitted for the NSF winter 1998 proposal review cycle, with a proposal submission deadline of

March 1, 1998. Thereafter, proposals will be accepted for the August 15 and January 15 review cycles until further notice. The pace of expansion of RDCs will be limited by the capacity of the Census Bureau to provide adequate support and oversight. It is anticipated that up to four additional RDCs can be supported in the next two to three years.

Proposals should be formally submitted to the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (SBER) at the NSF. Detailed information on proposal guidelines and review procedures is available on the NSF web site <<http://www.nsf.gov>>. Proposals will be reviewed jointly by relevant peer review panels, including Economics; Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics; and Sociology. Final decisions will be made jointly by the Census Bureau and the NSF.

A detailed prospectus is available on the Census Bureau World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov/ces/ces.html>). The prospectus gives more information on the expected contents of the proposal and the expected roles of both the Census Bureau and its partners in RDC operations, including costs. For more information, contact Arnold Reznick at (301) 457-1856 (areznick@census.gov), John Haltiwanger at (301) 457-1848 (jhaltiwa@census.gov), Cheryl Eavey (ceavey@nsf.gov), or Daniel Newlon (dnewlon@nsf.gov). Those who do not have web access may contact Kim Austin at (301) 457-1848 (kaustin@census.gov) to obtain a paper copy of the prospectus.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The collection of information contained in the Notice is cleared under OMB Control Number 3145-0058.

It has been determined that this notice is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

Dated: January 12, 1998.

Bradford R. Huther,

*Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer,
Bureau of the Census.*

[FR Doc. 98-1504 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Notice of Approval of Guidance Document on Lead in Consumer Products

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of approval of guidance document on lead in consumer products.

SUMMARY: The Commission announces that it has approved a statement that provides guidance for manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products that may contain lead.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Washburn, Office of Compliance, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504-0400, ext. 1452.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The text of the guidance document is as follows:

Guidance for Lead (Pb) in Consumer Products

Summary

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issues this guidance to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers to protect children from hazardous exposure to lead in consumer products.¹ The Commission identifies the major factors that it considers when evaluating products that contain lead, and informs the public of its experience with products that have exposed children to potentially hazardous amounts of lead.

To reduce the risk of hazardous exposure to lead, the Commission requests manufacturers to eliminate the use of lead that may be accessible to children from products used in or around households, schools, or in recreation. The Commission also recommends that, before purchasing products for resale, importers, distributors, and retailers obtain assurances from manufacturers that those products do not contain lead that may be accessible to children.

Hazard

Young children are most commonly exposed to lead in consumer products from the direct mouthing of objects, or from handling such objects and subsequent hand-to-mouth activity. The

¹ This guidance is not a rule. It is intended to highlight certain obligations under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Companies should read that Act and the accompanying regulations at 16 CFR part 1500 for more detailed information.

specific type and frequency of behavior that a child exposed to a product will exhibit depends on the age of the child and the characteristics and pattern of use of the product. The adverse health effects of lead poisoning in children are well-documented and may have long-lasting or permanent consequences. These effects include neurological damage, delayed mental and physical development, attention and learning deficiencies, and hearing problems. Because lead accumulates in the body, even exposures to small amounts of lead can contribute to the overall level of lead in the blood and to the subsequent risk of adverse health effects. Therefore, any unnecessary exposure of children to lead should be avoided. The scientific community generally recognizes a level of 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood as a threshold level of concern with respect to lead poisoning. To avoid exceeding that level, young children should not chronically ingest more than 15 micrograms of lead per day from consumer products.

Guidance

Under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA), 15 U.S.C. 1261(f)(1), household products that expose children to hazardous quantities of lead under reasonably foreseeable conditions of handling or use are "hazardous substances." A household product that is not intended for children but which creates such a risk of injury because it contains lead requires precautionary labeling under the Act. 15 U.S.C. 1261(p). A toy or other article intended for use by children which contains a hazardous amount of lead that is accessible for children to ingest is a banned hazardous substance. 15 U.S.C. 1261(q)(1)(B). In evaluating the potential hazard associated with products that contain lead, the Commission staff considers these major factors on a case-by-case basis: the total amount of lead contained in a product, the bioavailability of the lead, the accessibility of the lead to children, the age and foreseeable behavior of the children exposed to the product, the foreseeable duration of the exposure, and the marketing, patterns of use, and life cycle of the product.

Paint and similar surface coatings containing lead have historically been the most commonly-recognized sources of lead poisoning among the products within the Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission has, by regulation, banned (1) paint and other similar surface coatings that contain more than 0.06% lead ("lead-containing paint"), (2) toys and other articles intended for use by children that bear lead-

containing paint, and (3) furniture articles for consumer use that bear lead-containing paint. 16 CFR part 1303. In recent years, however, the Commission staff has identified a number of disparate products—some intended for use by children and others simply used in or around the household or in recreation—that presented a risk of lead poisoning from sources other than paint. These products included vinyl miniblinds, crayons, figurines used as game pieces, and children's jewelry.

In several of these cases, the staff's determination that the products presented a risk of lead poisoning resulted in recalls or in the replacement of those products with substitutes, in addition to an agreement to discontinue the use of lead in future production. The Commission believes that, had the manufacturers of these lead-containing products acted with prudence and foresight before introducing the products into commerce, they would not have used lead at all. This in turn would have eliminated both the risk to young children and the costs and other consequences associated with the corrective actions.

The Commission urges manufacturers to eliminate lead in consumer products to avoid similar occurrences in the future. However, to avoid the possibility of a Commission enforcement action, a manufacturer who believes it necessary to use lead in a consumer product should perform the requisite analysis before distribution to determine whether the exposure to lead causes the product to be a "hazardous substance." If the product is a hazardous substance and is also a children's product, it is banned. If it is a hazardous household substance but is not intended for use by children, it requires precautionary labeling. This same type of analysis also should be performed on materials substituted for lead.

The Commission also notes that, under the FHSA, any firm that purchases a product for resale is responsible for determining whether that product contains lead and, if so, whether it is a "hazardous substance." The Commission, therefore, recommends that, prior to the acquisition or distribution of such products, importers, distributors, and retailers obtain information and data, such as analyses of chemical composition or accessibility, relevant to this determination from manufacturers, or have such evaluations conducted themselves.

Dated: January 15, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-1456 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Room 420, East West Towers, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Open to the Public.

MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED:

Bicycle Helmets

The Commission will consider options for a final safety standard for bicycle helmets.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-0800.

Dated: January 20, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-1665 Filed 1-20-98; 2:25 pm]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Public Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Limited Reevaluation Study for the Deepening of the Arthur Kill-Howland Hook Marine Terminal Navigation Channels

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: In previous **Federal Register** notice (Vol. 62, No. 196, pages 52698-52699) Thursday, October 9, 1997, make the following correction:

On page 52698, in column 3, line 34, the sentence "Comments will be accepted for forty-five (45) days after publishing of this notice." should be deleted. Unfortunately, the DSEIS, previously experienced publishing delays which resulted in the document not being readily available for public comment at the time when the previous