

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2862]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Government Activities on International Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labeling Systems; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting regarding Government Activities on International Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labeling Systems.

SUMMARY: This public meeting will provide an update on current activities related to international harmonization since the previous public meeting, conducted June 16, 1998. (See Department of State Public Notice 2813, on pages 26938–26839 of the **Federal Register** of May 14, 1998.) The meeting will also offer interested organizations and individuals the opportunity to provide information and views for consideration in the development of United States Government policy positions. For more complete information on the harmonization process, please refer to State Department Public Notice 2526, pages 15951–15957 of the **Federal Register** of April 3, 1997.

The meeting will take place from 10:00 a.m. until noon on August 5 in Room S4215 A&B, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Attendees should use the entrance at C and Third Streets, NW. To facilitate entry, please have a picture ID available and/or a U.S. Government building pass if applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit written comments or information, please contact Mary Frances Lowe, U.S. Department of State, OES/ENV, Room 4325, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520. Phone (202) 736-4660, fax (202) 647-5947. A public docket is also available for review (OSHA docket H-022H).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of State is announcing a public meeting of the interagency committee concerned with the international harmonization of chemical hazard classification and labeling systems (an effort often referred to as the "globally harmonized system" or GHS). The purpose of the meeting is to provide interested groups and individuals with an update on activities since the June

16, 1998, public meeting, a preview of upcoming international meetings, and an opportunity to submit additional information and comments for consideration in developing U.S. Government positions. Representatives of the following agencies participate in the interagency group: the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

The Agenda of the public meeting will include:

1. Introduction

2. Reports on recent international meetings

- First meeting of the Inter-Organization Program for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)/ International Labour Organisation Working Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Hazard Communication, June 22, in London, UK. The Working Group elected Dr. Iona Pratt of Ireland as chair and set up a process for developing the terms of reference, work plan and time table for the hazard communication elements of the GHS.

- 12th Consultation of the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems, June 23–24, London, UK. This group provides overall management direction to the development of the GHS. At the June meeting, the group reached consensus on a paper clarifying the scope and application of the GHS discussed at the previous two Coordinating Group meetings, in June and November, 1997. The group also approved a report on a proposed organizational setting within the UN Economic and Social Council framework. Both papers have been forwarded to the Intersessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety for consideration at its November 29–December 4 meeting. The organizational paper was also considered by the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG) during its June 29–July 10 session. Copies of the two papers and related documents are in the public docket.

- Second Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Mixtures, June 25–27, in London, UK. This group is charged with developing harmonized approaches for the classification of mixtures. Participants discussed a draft detailed review document outlining the components of major existing hazard classification systems for mixtures, set up a process for revising that document, and reached agreement on some coverage issues.

- Meeting of the UNSCETDG, June 29–July 10, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Subcommittee has hosted the working group developing classification criteria proposals for physical hazards and largely completed this work in December 1997. It is also involved in consideration of OECD proposals on acute and aquatic toxicity classifications, the institutional framework for the ongoing maintenance of the GHS, and hazard communication issues as they relate to goods in transport.

3. Preparation for upcoming meetings.

- Seventh Meeting of the Advisory Group on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling, September 1–2, Paris, France. This meeting will focus on discussion of classification criteria proposals for health and environmental endpoints, including skin and eye irritation/corrosion, target organ toxicity, reproductive toxicity, aquatic toxicity, acute toxicity, and the review of an integrated document comprised of introductory sections on cross-cutting issues and individual chapters on each covered endpoint. The goal is to have the integrated proposal and other issues resolved as much as possible before the high level OECD meeting, described below. Key remaining issues involve acute, aquatic reproductive and target organ toxicity and the integrated proposal.

- OECD High Level Meeting of the Advisory Group, September 3–4, Paris, France. Participants in this meeting will be senior level officials charged with reaching agreement on a packaging of OECD classification criteria for submission to and approval of the OECD Joint Meeting on Chemicals, now planned for November 4–6.

4. Public comments.

5. Concluding remarks.

Interested parties are invited to submit their comments as soon as

possible for consideration in the development of U.S. positions for the international meetings listed above, and to present their views orally and/or in writing at the public meeting. Participants in the meeting may also address other topics relating to harmonization of chemical classification and labeling systems and are particularly invited to identify issues of concern to specific sectors that may be affected by the GHS.

All written comments will be placed in the public docket (OSHA docket H-022H). The docket is open from 10 am until 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and is located at the Department of Labor, Room 2625, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. (Telephone 202-219-7894; Fax: 202-219-5046). The public may also consult the docket to review previous **Federal Register** notices, comments received, Questions and Answers about the GHS, a response to comments on the April 3, 1997, **Federal Register** notice, and other relevant documents.

Dated: June 20, 1998.

Michael Metelits,

*Director Office of Environmental Policy
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs.*

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Cancellation of Meeting of the Industry Sector Advisory Committee on Small and Minority Business (ISAC-14)

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of meeting cancellation.

SUMMARY: A notice was published in the **Federal Register** dated July 1, 1998, Volume number 63, Notice 126, page 36009, announcing a meeting of the Industry Sector Advisory Committee (ISAC-14) scheduled for July 20, 1998 from 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting was to be open to the public from 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and closed to the public from 11:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. However, due to an insufficient number of responses regarding attendance, the meeting had to be canceled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Daley, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-6120.

Pate Felts,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The ICRs describe the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following information collection was published on April 28, 1998 [63 FR 23337].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 24, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Robinson, NHTSA Information Collection Clearance Officer at (202) 366-9456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Title: 49 CFR Part 576 Record Retention.

OMB Control Number: 2127-0042.

Type Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Abstract: Under 49 U.S.C. Section 30166(e), NHTSA "reasonably may require a manufacturer of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment to keep records, and a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer to make reports, to enable [NHTSA] to decide whether the manufacturer, distributor or dealer has complied or is complying with this chapter or a regulation prescribed under this chapter." 49 U.S.C. Section 30118© requires manufacturers to notify NHTSA and owners, purchasers, and dealers if the manufacturer (1) "learns" that any vehicle or equipment manufactured by it contains a defect and decides in good faith that the defect relates to motor vehicle safety, or (2) "decides in good faith" that the vehicle or equipment does not comply with an applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standard. The only way for the agency to decide if and when a manufacturer "learned" of a safety-related defect or "decided in good faith" that some products did not comply with an applicable Federal

motor vehicle safety standard is for the agency to have access to the information available to the manufacturer. Further, 49 U.S.C. Section 30118(a) requires NHTSA to immediately notify a manufacturer if the agency determines that some of the manufacturer's products either do not comply with an applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standard or contain a safety-related defect, and provide the manufacturer with all the information on which the determination is based. Agency determinations of noncompliance are generally based upon actual testing conducted by or for the agency. However, defect determinations depend heavily upon review of consumer complaints submitted to the manufacturer, communications between manufacturers and suppliers, and the manufacturers' analyses of field problems and/or warranty claims. Without these complaints and manufacturer documents, NHTSA would have only limited access to information about vehicle or equipment problems. To ensure that NHTSA will have access to this type of information, the agency exercised the authority granted in 49 U.S.C. Section 30166(e) and promulgated 49 CFR Part 576, Record Retention. This regulation requires manufacturers of motor vehicles to retain one copy of all records that contain information concerning malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety, for a period of five years after the record is generated or acquired by the manufacturer.

Estimated Annual Burden: 40,000 hours.

Number of Respondents: At least 1,000 vehicle manufacturers of all types.

ADDRESS: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT Desk Officer. Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.