

Number of Respondents: 155.

Avg Hours Per Response: 4.5 hours.

Needs and Uses: The Government requires data from the BE-47, Annual Survey of Construction, Engineering, Architectural, and Mining Services Provided by U.S. Firms to Unaffiliated Foreign Persons, to obtain accurate and up-to-date information on U.S. sales to unaffiliated foreign persons of construction, engineering, architectural, and mining services. It will use the data collected in monitoring U.S. exports of construction, engineering, architectural, and mining services, analyzing their impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, supporting U.S. international trade policy on such services, compiling the balance of payments, national income and product, and input-output accounts of the United States, assessing U.S. competitiveness in international trade in services, and improving the ability of U.S. businesses to identify and evaluate market opportunities. For example, the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations produced an agreement, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), that will liberalize market access rules and promote more equal treatment of U.S. construction and engineering firms. The BE-47 data will help measure gains, by individual foreign country, obtained in construction and related services under the GATS. Similar needs arise with respect to the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Finally, the Government needs the data to help gauge the effects of foreign economic developments, such as the recent Asian financial crisis, on U.S. business interests abroad.

Affected Public: U.S. business or other for-profit institutions providing construction, engineering, architectural, and mining services to unaffiliated foreign persons.

Frequency: Annual.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 22 U.S.C., Sections 3101-3108, as amended.

OMB Desk Officer: Paul Bugg, (202) 395-3093.

You may obtain copies of the above information collection proposal by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Send comments on the proposed information collection within 30 days of publication of this notice to Paul Bugg, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10201, New

Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-26845 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Title: Annual Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons.

Form Number(s): BE-82.

Agency Approval Number: 0608-0063.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection without any change in the substance or in the method of collection.

Burden: 3,200.

Number of Respondents: 425.

Avg Hours Per Response: 7.5 hours.

Needs and Uses: The Government requires data from the BE-82, Annual Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons, to obtain accurate and up-to-date information on U.S. financial services transactions with unaffiliated foreign persons. It will use the data collected in monitoring U.S. exports and imports of financial services, analyzing their impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, compiling the balance of payments, national income and product, and input-output accounts of the United States, supporting U.S. international trade policy on financial services, assessing U.S. competitiveness in international trade in services, and improving the ability of U.S. businesses to identify and evaluate market opportunities. For example, the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations produced an agreement, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), that will liberalize market access rules and promote more equal treatment of U.S. financial firms. More recently, additional negotiations were completed pertaining specifically to financial services, resulting in the World Trade Organization Financial

Services Agreement. The BE-82 data will help measure gains, by individual foreign country, obtained in financial services under these agreements. Similar needs arise with respect to the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Finally, the Government needs the data to help gauge the effects of foreign economic developments, such as the recent Asian financial crisis, on U.S. business interests abroad.

Affected Public: U.S. businesses or other for-profit institutions engaging in international financial services transactions with unaffiliated foreign persons.

Frequency: Annual.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 22 U.S.C., Sections 3101-3108, as amended.

OMB Desk Officer: Paul Bugg, (202) 395-3093.

You may obtain copies of the above information collection proposal by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Send comments on the proposed information collection within 30 days of publication of this notice to Paul Bugg, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-26846 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Title: Annual Survey of Reinsurance and Other Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons.

Form Number(s): BE-48.

Agency Approval Number: 0608-0016.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection without any change in the substance or in the method of collection.

Burden: 1,600 hours.
Number of Respondents: 400.
Avg Hours Per Response: 4 hours.
Needs and Uses: The Government requires data from the BE-48, Annual Survey of Reinsurance and Other Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons, to obtain accurate and up-to-date information on insurance transactions between U.S. insurance companies or groups and foreign persons. It will use the data collected in monitoring U.S. exports and imports of insurance services, analyzing their impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, compiling the balance of payments, national income and product, and input-output accounts of the United States, supporting U.S. international trade policy on insurance services, assessing U.S. competitiveness in international trade in services, and improving the ability of U.S. businesses to identify and evaluate market opportunities. For example, the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations produced an agreement, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), that will liberalize market access rules and promote more equal treatment of U.S. insurance firms. More recently, additional negotiations were completed pertaining specifically to financial services (including insurance services), resulting in the World Trade Organization Financial Services Agreement. The BE-48 data will help measure gains, by individual foreign country, obtained in insurance services under the GATS. Similar needs arise with respect to the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Finally, the Government needs the data to help gauge the effects of foreign economic developments, such as the recent Asian financial crisis, on U.S. business interests abroad.

Affected Public: U.S. insurance companies or groups engaging in reinsurance or other insurance transactions with foreign persons.

Frequency: Annual.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 22 U.S.C., Sections 3101-3108, as amended.

OMB Desk Officer: Paul Bugg, (202) 395-3093.

You may obtain copies of the above information collection proposal by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Send comments on the proposed information collection within 30 days of

publication of this notice to Paul Bugg, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-26847 Filed 10-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket Number: 980929249-8249-01]

RIN 0690-XX05

Fastener Quality Act; Statutorily Required Study

AGENCY: United States Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry; request for comments.

SUMMARY: On August 14, 1998, President Clinton signed Public Law 105-234. This law amended the Fastener Quality Act (FQA) by creating an exemption for certain aircraft fasteners. The new law also requires the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report on: (1) Changes in fastener manufacturing processes that have occurred since the enactment of the Fastener Quality Act; (2) a comparison of the Fastener Quality Act to other regulatory programs that regulate the various categories of fasteners, and an analysis of any duplication that exists among programs; and (3) any changes in that Act that may be warranted because of the changes reported under paragraphs (1) and (2). This notice solicits public comments on the issues raised by the Secretary's reporting requirement.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than November 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted to: Dr. James E. Hill; Chief, Building Environment Division; Building and Fire Research Laboratory; National Institute of Standards and Technology; Building 226, Room B-306; Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: fqastudy@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James Hill; Telephone: 301-975-5851; E-mail: james.hill@nist.gov. The Fastener Quality Act and the existing implementing regulations can be viewed at NIST's FQA website: <http://www.nist.gov/fqa/fqa.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Fastener Quality Act, 15 U.S.C. 5401 *et seq.*, (the Act) strives to protect public safety by: (1) Requiring that certain fasteners which are sold in commerce conform to the specifications to which they are represented to be manufactured; (2) providing for accreditation of laboratories engaged in fastener testing; and (3) requiring inspection, testing and certification, in accordance with standardized methods, of fasteners covered by the Act.

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of NIST, published final regulations implementing the Act on September 26, 1996, See 15 CFR 280. Those regulations established procedures under which: (1) Laboratories in compliance with the Act may be listed; (2) laboratories may apply to NIST for accreditation; (3) private laboratory accreditation entities (bodies) may apply to NIST for approval to accredit laboratories; and (4) foreign laboratories accredited by their governments or by organizations recognized by the NIST Director can be deemed to satisfy the laboratory accreditation requirements of the Act. The regulation also established, within the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), a recordation system to identify the manufacturers or distributors of covered fasteners to ensure that the fasteners may be traced to their manufacturers or private label distributors. In addition, the regulations contained provisions on testing and certification of fasteners, sale of fasteners subsequent to manufacture, recordkeeping, applicability of the Act, enforcement, civil penalties, and hearing and appeal procedures. Those regulations became effective on November 25, 1996, and were to apply to fasteners manufactured on or after May 27, 1997, the "implementation date".

On April 18, 1997, NIST announced a one year extension of the implementation date of the regulations because there were an insufficient number of accredited laboratories to conduct the volume of inspection and testing required by the Act. During the one year extension, NIST proposed amendments, received public comments, and published amendments to the September 1996 rule that became effective as a final rule on May 14, 1998. This final rule established the procedures for registration of in-process inspection activities of qualifying manufacturing facilities that use Quality Assurance Systems (QAS), revised definitions and related sections for clarity, and corrected editorial errors. In addition, it extended the