

Comex originally submitted a petition for dual trading exemptions for its gold,

silver, and copper futures contracts and options on gold future contracts on October 21, 1993. After the Commission requested additional information, Comex submitted a corrected petition on November 30, 1993. That petition was made available to the public by a notice of availability published in the **Federal Register** on December 22, 1993.¹ On January 21, 1997, in response to a Commission letter offering the opportunity to update its petition, Comex submitted an updated petition. On May 6, 1997, the Commission issued an Order granting dual trading exemptions to Comex for its gold and silver futures contracts, the only affected contract markets as of that date. This Order provided that if other Comex contracts become affected contract markets after the date of the Order, the Commission may expand the Order in response to an updated petition that includes those contracts. Pursuant to that provision, Comex submitted an update to its petition dated June 25, 1999, requesting an exemption from the dual trading prohibition for the copper futures contract market.

Copies of the file containing all these materials and any future submissions, except to the extent the Exchange has requested confidential treatment in accordance with 17 CFR 145.9, are available for inspection at the Commission's Office of the Secretariat, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581, and may be obtained by mail at that address or by telephone at (202) 418-5100.

Petition materials subject to Comex's request for confidential treatment may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") (5 U.S.C. § 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR Part 145), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Request for copies of such materials should be made to FOIA, Privacy, and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of the Secretariat at the above address in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.87.

Comex timely submitted its amended petition before June 30, 1999, the effective date of the dual trading prohibition in the newly affected contract market. Therefore, application of the prohibition to the contract market covered by the petition amendment has been suspended in accordance with Commission Regulation 155.5(d)(5) and will remain suspended until the petition is acted upon.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 27, 1999.

Alan L. Seifert,

Deputy Director, Division of Trading and Markets.

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Proposed Collection of Information Under OMB Review; Mouthing Behavior Study

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) described below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The proposed collection of information consists of a study to observe 200 children ages 3 months through 35 months to record what items they put in their mouths and for how long. The study also includes a telephone survey of the parents of about 400 children between 36 and 72 months old to estimate the mouthing behavior of these children. The information will help the Commission assess the risks associated with children mouthing products containing potentially harmful substances. Comments on the study should be submitted to OMB and CPSC.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be captioned "Mouthing Behavior Study" and mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for CPSC, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503. Copies of comments also may be: mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, telephone (301) 504-0800; or filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY CONTACT: Celestine T. Kiss, Engineering Psychologist, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; 301-504-0468 ext. 1284 or by email to ckiss@cpsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff is investigating the potential exposure and health risks to children from teething, rattles, and toys that are made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) that contains various dialkyl phthalate (DAP) plasticizers, especially diisononyl phthalate (DINP). Manufacturers use plasticizers to soften the PVC. Tests using animals exposed to high levels of certain DAP plasticizers have caused concerns that PVC children's products might present a risk of liver or other organ toxicity to children. Whether DINP would cause toxic effects in humans depends on the amount of DINP that is ingested. Thus, determining the amount of time children have DINP-containing products in their mouths is one important component of the risk assessment.

The CPSC staff recently released a report, *The Risk of Chronic Toxicity Associated with Exposure to Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) in Children's Products (Dec. 1998)*, which concluded that, based on the best available information, few, if any, children are at risk of liver or other organ toxicity from PVC toys that contain DINP. This was based on estimates of the amount of DINP ingested, which indicated that DINP exposure did not reach a potentially harmful level. However, the staff believes that there are a number of uncertainties in this assessment, particularly regarding the types of toys that children are mouthing and how long they typically mouth these toys. In addition, the staff at that time did not address the potential carcinogenic risk from DINP, which is being investigated by a Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel (CHAP) appointed by the Commission. After the CHAP provides advice on the carcinogenic risk of DINP, accurate exposure data will be needed in order to perform a risk assessment. Therefore, CPSC will perform this study to gather better data on which to base the health-risk assessment.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA) (44 U.S.C 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency or a third party. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information

¹ 58 FR 67777 (December 22, 1993).