

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****NIST Special Publication 2000–02: Conformity Assessment Considerations for Federal Agencies**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) requests comments on the draft Special Publication (SP) 2000–02 *Conformity Assessment Considerations for Federal Agencies (Considerations)* document. The draft *Considerations* document is posted on the NIST website at: <https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/special-publications-conformity-assessment>.

DATES: NIST requests comments on the draft *Considerations* document. Comments must be received by February 26, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to NIST in the following ways:

- *Electronic comments:* Online submissions in electronic form may be sent to sp2000-02@nist.gov in any of the following formats: HTML; ASCII; Word; RTF; or PDF. Please include your name, organization's name (if any), and cite "Comments on Draft Conformity Assessment Considerations for Federal Agencies" in all correspondence. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of the referenced materials. The proposed update to the *Considerations* document is available for review at <https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/special-publications-conformity-assessment>. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, will be posted to the NIST website unchanged.

- Written comments may be submitted by mail to Lisa Carnahan, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2100, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding the draft *Considerations* document or this Request for Comments should be directed to Lisa Carnahan by email at SP2000-02@nist.gov, or by phone at 301–975–3362.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently revised Circular A–119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary

Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," in light of changes that have taken place in the world of regulation, standards, and conformity assessment since the Circular was last revised in 1998.¹ NIST is revising its conformity assessment materials to align with the updated Circular.

On February 28, 2017, NIST hosted a workshop to engage the conformity assessment community in the development of its conformity assessment materials. Updates to the conformity assessment materials reflect growth and evolution in the conformity assessment community as well as updates to the guidance in the revised OMB Circular A–119.

Taking into consideration the feedback received from workshop participants as well as input received from conformity assessment stakeholders in both the public and private sectors, NIST has developed a draft of the following materials:

- Conformity Assessment Considerations for Federal Agencies
- ABC's of Conformity Assessment

The purpose of the draft *Considerations* document is to provide the basics on conformity assessment concepts and activities as well as provide considerations to those who use, rely on, develop, manage or operate conformity assessment programs within federal departments and agencies. The information contained within the draft *Considerations* document seeks to help federal agencies develop, operate, and use conformity assessment programs in order to provide confidence that requirements in regulation, federal procurement or federal agency programs are met and reduce conformity assessment redundancy and burden on regulated entities.

Request for Public Comments: Persons interested in commenting on the draft *Considerations* document can submit their comments by following the instructions in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections.

All comments will be made publicly available; therefore, personal, proprietary or confidential information should not be included. When submitting comments, inclusion of name, affiliation, and contact information (phone number and/or email address in case of questions about

the comment) are optional. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of the referenced materials.

Kevin Kimball,

NIST Chief of Staff.

[FR Doc. 2017–27892 Filed 12–26–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****NIST Special Publication 2000–01: ABC's of Conformity Assessment**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) requests comments on the draft Special Publication (SP) 2000–01 *ABC's of Conformity Assessment* document. The draft *ABC's of Conformity Assessment* document is posted on the NIST website at: <https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/special-publications-conformity-assessment>.

DATES: NIST requests comments on the draft *ABC's of Conformity Assessment* document. Comments must be received by February 26, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to NIST in the following ways:

- *Electronic comments:* Online submissions in electronic form may be sent to sp2000-01@nist.gov in any of the following formats: HTML; ASCII; Word; RTF; or PDF. Please include your name, organization's name (if any), and cite "Comments on Draft *ABC's of Conformity Assessment*" in all correspondence. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of the referenced materials. The proposed update to the *ABC's of Conformity Assessment* document is available for review at <https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/special-publications-conformity-assessment>. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, will be posted to the NIST website unchanged.

- Written comments may be submitted by mail to Amy Phelps, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2100, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

¹ See "OMB Circular A–119: Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," which was published on January 27, 2016 and may be found at: https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/infocore/revise/circular_a-119_as_of_1_22.pdf.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the draft *ABC's of Conformity Assessment* document or this Request for Comments should be directed to Amy Phelps, by email at SP2000-01@nist.gov, or by phone at 301-975-4143.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently revised Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," in light of changes that have taken place in the world of regulation, standards, and conformity assessment since the Circular was last revised in 1998.¹ NIST is revising its conformity assessment materials to align with the updated Circular.

On February 28, 2017, NIST hosted a workshop to engage the conformity assessment community in the development of its conformity assessment materials. Updates to the conformity assessment materials reflect growth and evolution in the conformity assessment community as well as updates to the guidance in the revised OMB Circular A-119.

Taking into consideration the feedback received from workshop participants as well as input received from conformity assessment stakeholders in both the public and private sectors, NIST has developed a draft of the following materials:

- Conformity Assessment Considerations for Federal Agencies
- ABC's of Conformity Assessment

The purpose of the draft *ABC's of Conformity Assessment* document is to introduce conformity assessment concepts and information on how various conformity assessment activities are interlinked as well as the impact on the marketplace. The document highlights some of the important aspects of conformity assessment and serves as background for using available conformity assessment resources. The draft *ABCs of Conformity Assessment* document discusses the use of standards in conformity assessment activities; describes the types of conformity assessment activities; and identifies some of the interrelationships among conformity assessment activities.

Request for Public Comments: Persons interested in commenting on the draft

¹ See "OMB Circular A-119: Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," which was published on January 27, 2016 and may be found at: https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/revised_circular_a-119_as_of_1_22.pdf.

ABCs of Conformity Assessment document can submit their comments by following the instructions in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections.

All comments will be made publicly available; therefore, personal, proprietary or confidential information should not be included. When submitting comments, inclusion of name, affiliation, and contact information (phone number and/or email address in case of questions about the comment) are optional. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of the referenced materials.

Kevin Kimball,

NIST Chief of Staff.

[FR Doc. 2017-27891 Filed 12-26-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit 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: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Alaska Region Permit Family of Forms.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0206.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 531.

Average Hours per Response: Federal fisheries permit, 21 minutes; federal processor permit, 25 minutes; exempted fishing permit, 100 hours.

Burden Hours: 590.

Needs and Uses: For a person to participate in Federal fisheries, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP), a Federal Processor Permit (FPP), or an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP). NMFS Alaska Region created a set of commercial fishing permits that operators of vessels and managers of processors must have on board or on site when fishing, receiving, buying, or processing groundfish and non-groundfish species. The permit information provides harvest gear types; descriptions of vessels, shoreside processors, and stationary floating

processors; and expected fishery activity levels. These permits provide NMFS with a way to monitor participation in Federal fisheries.

Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. The requirement of a permit for marine resource users is one of the regulatory steps taken to carry out conservation and management objectives. The issuance of a permit is an essential ingredient in the management of fishery resources needed for identification of the participants, expected activity levels, and for regulatory compliance (e.g., withholding of permit issuance pending collection of unpaid penalties).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: Every three years, annually and on occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: December 21, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-27929 Filed 12-26-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit 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: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Non-commercial Permit and Reporting Requirements in the Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Fishery.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0577.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 100.