

The Secretary of Agriculture invites those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with or users of the agricultural safety net, to nominate individuals for membership on the Committee. Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership to the Committee. The Secretary of Agriculture seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in the strengthening of the agricultural safety net.

Individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and biographical information must be completed and returned to the USDA within 10 working days of its receipt, to expedite the clearance process that is required before selection by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Committee in accordance with USDA policies. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and limited resource agricultural producers.

Dated: February 19, 1999.

Deborah Matz,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-6030 Filed 3-8-99; 12:43 pm]
BILLING CODE 3410-08-M

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Proposed Collection of Information; Mouthing Behavior Study; Comment Request

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety
Commission.

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") is announcing an opportunity for public comment on a proposed study to determine the frequency and duration of children's mouthing behaviors. The study will observe 200 children ages 3 months through 36 months to record what items they put in their mouth and for how long. The study also includes a telephone survey of the parents of about 400 children between 37 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. The Commission will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting approval of this observational study from the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the Office of the Secretary on or before June 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be captioned "Mouthing Behavior Study" and mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207 or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland; telephone (301) 504-0800. Comments also may be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposed collection of information, call or write 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 may be made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) that contains various dialkyl phthalate (DAP) plasticizers, especially diisononyl phthalate (DINP). Manufacturers use plasticizers to soften the PVC.

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. Staff will undertake additional work to gather better data on which to base the health risk assessment.

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 Commission also can use information from this study to assess potential hazards associated with other children's products, such as exposure to lead.

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 a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information before submitting the collection to OMB for approval.

B. Description of the Collection of Information

This additional work will include an extensive exposure study to obtain a better estimate of the amount of time children mouth products that could contain phthalates. The CPSC is also interested in how mouthing time varies with age, gender, and socioeconomic strata.

Subjects will be recruited by random digit dialing (RDD) in two large metropolitan areas that are each diverse from a socioeconomic viewpoint. RDD will be used to provide probability samples to ensure that the estimates are representative of the metropolitan areas where the study is conducted.

The observation portion of the study involves 200 children between 3 and 36 months old. The observations will be conducted over 2 days for 4 hours per day. The observer will keep a diary of the child's activities during the observations. Examples of activities will include eating, napping, or sleeping, play, and child-care. For 15 continuous minutes out of each hour, the child's mouthing activities will be recorded. This will include (1) the specific object being mouthed, (2) the length of the mouthing episode and (3) whether the object was placed to the lips, or put into the mouth. Mouthing is defined, for purposes of this study, as placing any item to the child's lips, tongue, and/or into the mouth.

In addition to the observations, a contractor will conduct a RDD telephone survey to determine mouthing behaviors of 400 children between 37 and 72 months old, as reported by the parent. This age group will not be observed.

The Commission will use all this information to estimate the frequency and duration of children's mouthing activities, by age. Interested persons may obtain a more detailed description of the intended study from the Commission's Office of the Secretary.

C. Burden on Respondents

The Commission's staff estimates that 200 subjects are required for the observation portion of the study. Each subject's total participation time will be approximately 13 hours. For most of this time, however, the child and the caregiver will be engaged in their regular activities. (Time spent in the normal course of a respondent's activities does not count as part of the burden of a collection of information. 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(2).)

The Commission's staff estimates that each child in the observation study, and the persons associated with each child (including parents and other caregivers), will spend an average total of about 3.5 hours among them in reacting specifically to the observer. This is calculated by estimating the time of interacting with one person for a 0.5 hour phone interview, two persons for 1 hour during the in-home interview/habituation period (2 hours total) and an average of 30 person-minutes of interaction relating to the study for each of the 2 observation sessions (1 hour total). Therefore, the total burden hours for these respondents will be about 700 hours (200 × 3.5 hours).

The staff estimates that the number of subjects required for the telephone survey portion of the study is 400. Each subject's total time will be approximately 15 minutes. Therefore, the total burden hours for the telephone survey will be about 100 hours.

Thus, the estimated one-time reporting burden for this collection is 800 hours.

C. Requests for Comments

The Commission solicits written comments from all interested persons about the proposed survey to determine children's mouthing behaviors. The Commission specifically solicits information about the hourly burden and about any monetary costs that may be imposed by this collection of information. As required by the PRA, the Commission also seeks information relevant to the following topics:

- Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Commission's functions;
- Whether the information will have practical utility for the Commission;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden on the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Whether the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected could be enhanced; and
- Whether the burden imposed by the collection of information on those who are to respond could be minimized, including by use of automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

Dated: March 5, 1999.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 99-5980 Filed 3-10-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Intent To Grant an Exclusive Patent License

Pursuant to the provisions of Part 404 of Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, which implements Public Law 96-517, the Department of the Air Force announces its intention to grant Rice University (hereafter Rice), a private university in Houston, Texas, an exclusive license in any right, title, and interest the Air Force has in United States Patent No. 5,760,941 issued June 2, 1998. The patent is filed in the name of Air Force employee Dr. Lim Nguyen and Rice employees Dr. James Young and Dr. Benhaam Aazhang for a "System and Method for Performing Optical Code Division Multiple Access Communication Using Bipolar Codes."

The license described above will be granted unless an objection thereto, together with a request for an opportunity to be heard, if desired, is received in writing by the addressee set forth below within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Information concerning the application may be obtained, on request, from the same addressee.

All communications concerning this Notice should be sent to: Mr. Randy Heald, Patent Attorney, SAF/GCQ, 1740 Air Force Pentagon, Washington D.C.

20330-1740, Telephone No. (703) 588-5091.

Carolyn A. Lunsford,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-5988 Filed 3-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.330]

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Advanced Placement Incentive Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 1999.

SUMMARY: The Secretary invites applications for new awards for FY 1999 under the Advanced Placement Incentive Program and announces deadline dates for the transmittal of applications for funding under the program. This is a discretionary grant program.

Purpose of Program: The primary purpose of the Advanced Placement Incentive Program is to enable States to reimburse part or all of the cost of advanced placement test fees for low-income individuals who (1) are enrolled in an advanced placement class; and (2) plan to take an advanced placement test. In addition, a State educational agency (SEA) in a State in which no eligible low-income individual is required to pay more than a nominal fee to take advanced placement tests in core subjects may use any grant funds, that remain after test fees have been paid on behalf of all eligible low-income individuals, for activities directly related to increasing (a) the enrollment of low-income individuals in advanced placement courses; (b) the participation of low-income individuals in advanced placement tests; and (c) the availability of advanced placement courses in schools serving high-poverty areas. This program is authorized under Title VIII, Part B, of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (1998 Amendments) (20 U.S.C. 1070a-11, note).

Who May Apply: SEAs in any State, including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 26, 1999.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 26, 1999.