



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

6560-50

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0227; FRL 9521-6]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Servicing of Motor Vehicle Air Conditioners (Renewal)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)(44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that an Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This is a request to renew an existing approved collection. The ICR, which is abstracted below, describes the nature of the information collection and its estimated burden and cost.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before [insert date 30 days after publication in the Federal Register].

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0227, to (1) EPA online using www.regulations.gov (our preferred method), by email to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov, or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket, Mailcode: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, and (2) OMB by mail to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Hamlin, Stratospheric Protection Division, Office of Air and Radiation, Mail Code 6205J, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 343-9711; fax number: (202) 343-2338; email address: Hamlin.Sally@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has submitted the following ICR to OMB for

review and approval according to the procedures prescribed in 5 CFR 1320.12. On May 4, 2012 (77 FR 26544), EPA sought comments on this ICR pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.8(d). EPA received no comments. Any additional comments on this ICR should be submitted to EPA and OMB within 30 days of this notice.

EPA has established a public docket for this ICR under Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0227, which is available for online viewing at www.regulations.gov, or in person viewing at the Air Docket in the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The EPA/DC Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Reading Room is 202-566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air Docket is 202-566-1742.

Use EPA's electronic docket and comment system at www.regulations.gov, to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the docket, and to access those documents in the docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "docket search," then key in the docket ID number identified above. Please note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing at www.regulations.gov as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, confidential business information (CBI), or other information whose public disclosure is restricted by statute. For further information about the electronic docket, go to www.regulations.gov.

Title: Servicing of Motor Vehicle Air Conditioners (Renewal)

ICR numbers: EPA ICR No. 1617.07, OMB Control No. 2060-0247.

ICR Status: This ICR is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2012. Under OMB regulations, the Agency may continue to conduct or sponsor the collection of information while this submission

is pending at OMB. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations in Title 40 of the CFR, after appearing in the Federal Register when approved, are listed in 40 CFR part 9, are displayed either by publication in the Federal Register or by other appropriate means, such as on the related collection instrument or form, if applicable. The display of OMB control numbers in certain EPA regulations is consolidated in 40 CFR part 9.

Abstract: Section 609 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Act) provides general guidelines for motor vehicle air conditioning (MVAC) refrigerant handling and MVAC servicing. It states that “no person repairing or servicing motor vehicles for consideration may perform any service on a motor vehicle air conditioner involving the refrigerant for such air conditioner without properly using approved refrigerant recovery and/or recovery and recycling equipment (hereafter referred to as “refrigerant handling equipment”) and no such person may perform such service unless such person has been properly trained and certified.”

In 1992, EPA developed regulations under section 609 (57 FR 31242) that were codified at 40 CFR 82, subpart B. Descriptions of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements mandated by section 609 and delineated in the CFR are summarized below.

Approved Refrigerant Handling Equipment: In accordance with Section 609(b)(2)(A), 40 CFR 82.36 requires that refrigerant handling equipment be certified by EPA or independent standards testing organization.

Approved independent standards testing organizations: Section 609(b)(2)(A) of the Act requires independent laboratory testing of refrigerant handling equipment to be certified by EPA.

Independent laboratories must submit an application. EPA does not anticipate that any new organizations will apply to EPA in the future to become approved independent standards testing

organizations. Therefore, related annual hours and costs have been eliminated.

Technician training and certification: According to Section 609(b)(4) of the Act, automotive technicians are required to be trained and certified in the proper use of approved refrigerant handling equipment. Programs that perform technician training and certification activities must apply to the EPA for approval by submitting verification that its program meets EPA standards. The information requested is used by the EPA to guarantee a degree of uniformity in the testing programs for motor vehicle service technicians. The Agency requires that each approved technician certification program conducts periodic reviews and updates of test material, submitting a written summary of the review and program changes to EPA every two years.

Certification, reporting and recordkeeping: To facilitate enforcement under Section 609, EPA has developed several recordkeeping requirements. All required records must be retained on-site for a minimum of three years, unless otherwise indicated.

Section 609(c) of the Act states that by January 1, 1992, no person may service any motor vehicle air conditioner without being properly trained and certified, nor without using properly approved refrigerant handling equipment. To this end, 40 CFR 82.42(a) states that by January 1, 1993, each service provider must have submitted to EPA on a one-time basis a statement signed by the owner of the equipment or another responsible officer that provides the name of the equipment purchaser, the address of the service establishment where the equipment will be located, the manufacturer name, equipment model number, date of manufacture, and equipment serial number. The statement must also indicate that the equipment will be properly used in servicing motor vehicle air conditioners and that each individual authorized by the purchaser to perform service is properly trained and certified. The information is used to verify compliance.

Any person who owns approved refrigerant handling equipment must maintain records of the name and address of any facility to which refrigerant is sent and must retain records

demonstrating that all persons authorized to operate the equipment are currently certified technicians.

Finally, any person who sells or distributes a class I or class II refrigerant that is in a container of less than 20 pounds must verify that the purchaser is a properly trained and certified technician, unless the purchase of small containers is for resale only. In that case, the seller must obtain a written statement from the purchaser that the containers are for resale only, and must indicate the purchaser's name and business address. In all cases, the seller must display a sign where sales occur that states the certification requirements for purchasers.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average less than one hour per response. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements which have subsequently changed; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

The ICR provides a detailed explanation of the Agency's estimate, which is only briefly summarized here:

Affected Entities: Motor vehicle dealers, automobile parts stores, general automotive repair shops, and automotive repair shops not elsewhere classified.

Estimated Number of Potential Respondents: 52,614

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 4,523 hours

Estimated Total Annual Costs: \$ 208,307. This includes \$208,307 in labor costs and no capital or operation and maintenance costs.

Changes in the Estimates: There is a decrease of 2,177 hours in the total estimated burden currently identified in the OMB Inventory of Approved ICR Burdens. There are three reasons for this decrease in burden hours. Today, it is estimated that there are only 600 thousand R-12 MVACs on the road, or 80% less than in 2008. Therefore, to account for the decreased market for small containers of CFC-12 refrigerant, this ICR estimates that the number of purchases for resale only by uncertified purchasers of small cans will be 80% less than in 2008. The second reason for the burden hours decrease is that CFC-12 refrigerant sent off-site for reclamation to an approved refrigerant reclaimed by owners of refrigerant recycling equipment certified under 40 CFR 82.36(a) has decreased and is anticipated to continue decreasing due to the significant decline of CFC-12 vehicles on road. The third reason for the burden hours decreased is that there are less approved technician certification programs in business than in the previous ICR. However, EPA anticipates a slow increase of one organization approval per year as new alternative refrigerants become available and new businesses become interested in certifying technicians for MVAC servicing for consideration.

John Moses, Director, Collection Strategies Division

[FR Doc. 2012-20505 Filed 08/20/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 08/21/2012]