



**BILLING CODE 4510-26-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

**[Docket No. OSHA-2011-0029]**

**Underground Construction Standard**

**Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements**

**AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA is soliciting public comments concerning the proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) approval of the information collection requirements specified in the standard on Underground Construction.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted (postmarked, sent, or received) by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:**

*Electronically:* You may submit comments and attachments electronically at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments.

*Facsimile:* If your comments, including attachments, are not longer than 10 pages, you may fax them to the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-1648.

*Mail, hand delivery, express mail, messenger, or courier service:* When using these methods, you must submit a copy of your comments and attachments to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. OSHA-2011-0029, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3653, 200 Constitution Avenue,

NW, Washington, DC 20210. Deliveries (hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service) are accepted during the Docket Office's normal business hours, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., ET.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and OSHA docket number (Docket No. OSHA 2011-0029) for the Information Collection Request (ICR). All comments, including any personal information you provide, such as social security numbers and date of birth, are placed in the public docket without change, and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For further information on submitting comments, see the "Public Participation" heading in the section of this notice titled **"SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION."**

*Docket:* To read or download comments or other material in the docket, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or the OSHA Docket Office at the above address. All documents in the docket (including this *Federal Register* notice) are listed in the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from the website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. You may also contact Theda Kenney at the below phone number to obtain a copy of the ICR.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Theda Kenney or Seleda Perryman, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, telephone (202) 693-2222.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of the continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (i.e., employer) burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed, and continuing information collection requirements in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA's estimate of the information collection burden is accurate. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (the OSH Act) (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the OSH Act, or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657). The OSH Act also requires OSHA obtain such information with minimum burden upon employers, especially those operating small businesses, and to reduce to the maximum extent feasible unnecessary duplication of efforts in obtaining information (29 U.S.C. 657).

Seven paragraphs in the Underground Construction Standard ("the Standard"), 29 CFR 1926.800, require employers to post warning signs or notices during underground construction; these paragraphs are (b)(3), (i)(3), (j)(1)(vi)(A), (m)(2)(ii), (o)(2), (q)(11), and (t)(1)(iv)(B). The warning signs and notices required by these paragraphs enable employers to effectively alert workers to the presence of hazards or potential hazards at the job site, thereby preventing worker exposure to hazards or potential hazards associated with underground construction that could cause death or serious harm.

Paragraph (t)(3)(xxi) of the Standard requires employers to inspect and load test hoists when they install them, and at least annually thereafter. They must also inspect and

load test a hoist after making any repairs or alterations to it that affect the structural integrity, and after tripping a safety device on the hoist. Employers must also prepare a certification record of each inspection and load test that includes specified information, and maintain the most recent certification record until they complete the construction project.

Establishing and maintaining a written record of the most recent inspection and load test alerts equipment mechanics to problems identified during the inspection. Prior to returning the equipment to service, employers can review the records to ensure that the mechanics performed the necessary repairs and maintenance. Accordingly, by using only equipment that is in safe working order, employers will prevent severe injury and death to the equipment operators and other workers who work near the equipment. In addition, these records provide the most efficient means for OSHA compliance officers to determine that an employer performed the required inspections and load tests, thereby assuring that the equipment is safe to operate.

Paragraph (j)(3) of the Standard mandates that employers develop records for air quality tests performed under paragraph (j), including air quality tests required by paragraphs (j)(1)(ii)(A) through (j)(1)(iii)(A), (j)(1)(iii)(B), (j)(1)(iii)(C), (j)(1)(iii)(D), (j)(1)(iv), (j)(1)(v)(A), (j)(1)(v)(B), and (j)(2)(i) through (j)(2)(v). Paragraph (j) also requires that air quality records include specified information, and that employers maintain the records until the underground construction project is complete. They must also make the records available to OSHA compliance officers on request.

Maintaining records of air quality tests allows employers to document atmospheric hazards, ascertain the effectiveness of controls (especially ventilation), and

implement additional controls if necessary. Accordingly, these requirements prevent serious injury and death to workers who work on underground construction projects. In addition, these records provide an efficient means for workers to evaluate the accuracy and effectiveness of an employer's exposure reduction program, and for OSHA compliance officers to determine that employers performed the required tests and implemented appropriate controls.

## **II. Special Issues for Comment**

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;

- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and

- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply, for example, by using automated or other technological information collection and transmission techniques.

## **III. Proposed Actions**

The agency is requesting to retain the current burden estimate of 76,477 hours.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Underground Construction Standard (29 CFR 1926.800).

*OMB Control Number:* 1218-0067.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profits.

*Number of Respondents:* 461.

*Total Responses:* 1,171,439.

*Frequency of Responses:* On occasion.

*Average Time:* Varies.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 76,477.

*Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance):* \$165,600.

#### **IV. Public Participation — Submission of Comments on this Notice and Internet access to Comments and Submissions**

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows: (1) electronically at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), the Federal eRulemaking Portal; (2) by facsimile (fax); or (3) by hard copy. All comments, attachments, and other material must identify the agency name and the OSHA docket number for this ICR (OSHA Docket No. 2011-0029). You may supplement submissions by uploading document files electronically. If you wish to mail additional materials in reference to an electronic or facsimile submission, you must submit them to the OSHA Docket Office (see the section of this notice titled “**ADDRESSES**”). The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments and include your name, date, and the docket number so the agency can attach them to your comments.

Because of security procedures, the use of regular mail may cause a significant delay in the receipt of comments. For information about security procedures concerning the delivery of materials by hand, express delivery, messenger, or courier service, please contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350, TTY (877) 889-5627.

Comments and submissions are posted without change at *www.regulations.gov*. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information, such as social security numbers and dates of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the *www.regulations.gov* index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from this website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office.

Information on using the *www.regulations.gov* website to submit comments and access the docket is available at the website's "User Tips" link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about materials not available from the website, and for assistance in using the internet to locate docket submissions.

## **V. Authority and Signature**

Loren Sweat, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 et seq.) and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 1-2012 (77 FR 3912).

Signed at Washington, DC, on July 24, 2020.

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**Loren Sweatt,**  
*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.*

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