

Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.

Abstract: The information collection activity will garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration's commitment to improving service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance will provide useful information, but it will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

The Digital Government Strategy released by the White House in May 2012 drives agencies to have a more customer-centric focus. Because of this, GSA anticipates an increase in requests to use this generic clearance as the plan states that: a customer-centric principle charges us to do several things: conduct research to understand the customer's business, needs and desires; "make

content more broadly available and accessible and present it through multiple channels in a program- and device-agnostic way; make content more accurate and understandable by maintaining plain language and content freshness standards; and offer easy paths for feedback to ensure we continually improve service delivery. The customer-centric principle holds true whether our customers are internal (e.g., the civilian and military federal workforce in both classified and unclassified environments) or external (e.g., individual citizens, businesses, research organizations, and state, local, and tribal governments)."

Below we provide GSA's projected average estimates for the next three years:

Affected Public: Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Average Expected Annual Number of activities: 48.

Respondents: 145,534.

Annual Responses: 48,511.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average minutes per response: 3.82.

Burden hours: 9,314.

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 Office of Management and Budget control number.

Dated: December 5, 2012.

Casey Coleman,

Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

[ATSDR-276]

Availability of Final Toxicological Profiles

AGENCY: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of ten final toxicological profiles of priority hazardous substances prepared by ATSDR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Delores Grant, Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry,

Mailstop F-57, 1600 Clifton Road NE., Atlanta, Georgia 30333; telephone number (800) 232-4636 or (770)488-3351. Electronic access to these documents is available at the ATSDR Web site: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/index.asp.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*) amended by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund) (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*) by establishing certain requirements for ATSDR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to hazardous substances that are most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List (NPL). Among these statutory requirements is a mandate for the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare toxicological profiles for each substance included on the priority list of hazardous substances (also called the Substance Priority List). This list identifies 275 hazardous substances that ATSDR (in cooperation with EPA) has determined pose the most significant potential threat to human health. The availability of the revised list of the 275 priority substances was announced in the **Federal Register** on November 3, 2011 (76 FR 68193) and is available at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/spl. In addition, ATSDR has the authority to prepare toxicological profiles for substances not found at sites on the National Priorities List, in an effort to " * * * establish and maintain inventory of literature, research, and studies on the health effects of toxic substances" under CERCLA Section 104(i)(1)(B), to respond to requests for consultation under section 104(i)(4), and as otherwise necessary to support the site-specific response actions conducted by ATSDR.

Notice of the availability of these toxicological profiles in draft form for public review and comment was published in the **Federal Register** on November 6, 2008 (73 FR 66047) and December 17, 2009 (74 FR 66978), with notice of a 90-day public comment period for each profile, starting from the actual release date. Following the close of the comment period, chemical-specific comments were addressed, and, where appropriate, changes were incorporated into each profile. The public comments and other data submitted in response to the **Federal Register** notices bear the docket control numbers ATSDR-247, ATSDR-256. This material is available for public inspection at ATSDR.

Availability

This notice announces the availability of three new and seven updated final toxicological profiles of priority hazardous substances prepared by ATSDR. The following final toxicological profiles were made available to the public on December 7, 2012. These documents are available at the ATSDR Web site: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/index.asp.

Toxicological profile	CAS No.
1. Acrylamide	79-06-1
2. 1,3-Butadiene	106-99-0
3. Cadmium	7440-43-9
4. Carbon Monoxide	630-08-0
5. Chromium	7440-47-3
6. 1,4-Dioxane	123-91-1
7. Manganese	7439-96-5
8. Phosphate Ester Flame Retardants	78-51-3 126-73-8 126-71-6 115-86-6 13674-84-5 13674-87-8 115-96-8
9. Radon	10043-92-2
10. Vanadium	7440-62-2

The final profiles are also available through the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, telephone 1-800-553-6847. These profiles are available for a fee as determined by NTIS.

Dated: December 6, 2012.

Ken Rose,

Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, National Center for Environmental Health/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

[CDC-2012-0012; NIOSH-254]

Request for Information on Edel-Kindwall Caisson Tables for Preventing Decompression Illness in Construction Workers

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invites comments and information on decompression tables used for protecting tunneling (caisson) workers from developing decompression illnesses.

Public Comment Period: Comments must be received by March 29, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments, identified by CDC-2012-0012 and docket number NIOSH-254, may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Federal erulemaking portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, MS-C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226.

- *Email:* nioshdocket@cdc.gov.

All information received in response to this notice will be available for public examination and copying at the NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226. The document and instructions for submitting comments can be found at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. NIOSH includes all comments received without change in the docket, including any personal information provided. All electronic comments should be formatted as Microsoft Word. Please make reference to CDC 2012-0012 and docket number NIOSH-254.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank J. Hearl, PE, Chief of Staff, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Patriots Plaza, Suite 9200, 395 E St. SW., Washington, DC 20201. Telephone: (202) 245-0625 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: High pressure tunneling operations are used for some underground infrastructure projects. Compressed air is used to prevent seepage of water or to stabilize unstable soil conditions. Caisson work (a water-tight structure that allows underwater construction to be performed) can also involve elevated pressure worksites. This hyperbaric environment created by ambient pressure and compressed air effects exposes caisson and tunnel workers to the risks of decompression sickness (DCS) such as the "bends." DCS is related to intravascular or extravascular bubbles formed during reduction of environmental pressure

(decompression). The release of nitrogen bubbles into blood or tissues can result in obstruction of blood flow or pressure effects. Clinical manifestations of DCS include (but are not limited to) joint pain ("bends"), lytic lesions of bones (dysbaric osteonecrosis), cutaneous disorders (cutis marmorata), spinal cord and brain disorders (stroke, paralysis, paresthesias, bladder dysfunction, etc.), and cardiopulmonary disorders (shortness of breath "chokes"), arterial gas embolism.

In order to prevent DCS, workers in higher hyperbaric environments must be safely brought back to the non-work environmental ambient pressure (decompressed) in decompression areas.

Decompression tables generally utilize stepwise (staged) progressions of gradually decreasing pressure at varying time intervals based on work exposure pressures and length of work shift.

In 1971, the Washington State Decompression Tables that were used in multiple states became the federal code enforced by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and remain, unchanged, as the decompression tables in force today. The maximum worksite pressures allowed by OSHA (1926 Subpart S, Appendix A) and addressed by the OSHA decompression tables is 50 pounds per square inch (psi) (~3.45 bar gauge) [1]. They are considered inadequate for "efficiently eliminating nitrogen from the body" at pressures in excess of 36.5 psi [2].

The Edel-Kindwall Caisson Tables were developed for NIOSH in 1981. They are based on advances in hyperbaric research and are considered to be more protective of worker health than the OSHA tables. As a result, these tables have been used for variances to the OSH standard. NIOSH is making these tables more easily accessible to construction users by posting them to a new Web page at the NIOSH Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/topics/Decompression/>.

However, the Edel-Kindwall tables are inadequate for dealing with pressures greater than 50 psi. Many modern projects using Tunnel Boring Machines involve pressures greater than 50 psi. There is a need for up-to-date decompression tables.

NIOSH is thus requesting information on the following: (1) Information on types of projects where the Edel-Kindwall Tables have been used, (2) Published and unpublished reports and findings relating to the use of the Edel-Kindwall Tables, including information on possible health effects or lack of observed health health effects in tunnel/caisson workers who were