

the Secretary by email at *Secretary@fmc.gov*, or by mail, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, Washington, DC 20573. Comments will be most helpful to the Commission if received within 12 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**, and the Commission requests that comments be submitted within 7 days on agreements that request expedited review. Copies of agreements are available through the Commission's website (*www.fmc.gov*) or by contacting the Office of Agreements at (202) 523-5793 or *tradeanalysis@fmc.gov*.

*Agreement No.:* 012108-009.

*Agreement Name:* World Liner Data Agreement.

*Parties:* Maersk A/S; CMA CGM S.A.; COSCO SHIPPING Lines Co., Ltd.; Hapag-Lloyd AG; Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A.; Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.; Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp.; HMM Company Limited; Evergreen Line Joint Service Agreement; ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Limited; Swire Shipping Pte. Ltd.; Ocean Network Express Pte. Ltd.; Independent Container Line Ltd.; ANL Singapore PTE LTD; APL CO. PTE. LTD.

*Filing Party:* Wayne Rohde; Cozen O'Connor.

*Synopsis:* The amendment updates the membership of the agreement. More specifically, it deletes Hamburg Südamerikanische Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft KG, Nile Dutch Africa Line B.V., and Westwood Shipping Lines as parties to the agreement. It adds Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp., Swire Shipping Pte. Ltd., and Ocean Network Express Pte. Ltd. as parties. It also updates the addresses of COSCO Shipping Lines Co., Ltd. and Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A.

*Proposed Effective Date:* 8/30/2024.

*Location:* <https://www2.fmc.gov/FMC.Agreements.Web/Public/AgreementHistory/362>.

Dated: July 19, 2024.

**Alanna Beck,**

*Federal Register Alternate Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024-16307 Filed 7-24-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6730-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### Partnership Opportunity To Determine the Fit of Air Purifying Filtering Facepiece Respirators Worn Over Beard Bands for Workers With Facial Hair

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announces the opportunity for respirator manufacturers, NIOSH approval holders, and beard band manufacturers to participate, through a collaborative agreement, in a project titled "Fit Testing of Respirators on Those Wearing Beard Bands" to determine how well respirators provide protection to workers with facial hair when using a beard band.

**DATES:** Interested parties must submit a letter of intent, electronically or written, by September 23, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your letter of intent to Jonisha Pollard, NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochran Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 or by email to *JNI3@cdc.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jonisha Pollard, NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochran Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, 412-386-5220 (not a toll-free number), *JNI3@cdc.gov*.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Additional Information:* The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is seeking to identify respirator manufacturers, NIOSH approval holders, and beard band manufacturers who are interested in collaborating with NIOSH to conduct fit testing of NIOSH Approved® filtering facepiece respirators and particulate-only elastomeric half mask respirators for users having facial hair and using an elastic band (beard band) to secure their facial hair and provide a clean, smooth sealing surface for their respirator as part of their personal protective equipment (PPE).

This research endeavor grew from the need to advance equal access to employment and support worker populations with facial hair who need

respiratory protection. Individual fit testing of tight-fitting respirators is a component of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) respiratory protection programs in workplaces to better ensure that the respirator selected and worn can achieve the expected fit factor (provide the expected level of protection). The OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A)) prohibits employees from wearing respirators with tight-fitting facepieces if there is any hair growth between the skin and facepiece sealing surface. Fit testing is not possible without a tight seal of the respirator to the face. Per the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, an OSHA-compliant fit test determines the level of tightness for this class of respirators to achieve a fit factor of 100 which is 10 times the assigned protection factor (APF) for this class of respirator (*i.e.*, APF of half facepiece respirator is 10). Organizations, interest groups, and entities representing workers with facial hair who cannot shave because of religious, cultural, medical, or other reasons approached NIOSH to conduct research on fit effectiveness of the respiratory protective device when a beard band is used to improve the seal of the respirator with the wearer's face.

This project aims to determine the fit of respirators when worn over beard bands for workers with facial hair using a government-private partnership development model. This study may help increase respiratory protective devices available to this population of wearers and advance national interests by expanding respirator use to workers with beards. This includes workers in vital fields such as healthcare and public safety.

Collaborative efforts may be made via a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) under the authority of the Federal Technology Transfer Act, 15 U.S.C. 3710a, or another appropriate agreement. No Federal funds will be provided to partners whose equipment is utilized under this project.

NIOSH may select one or more partnering candidates using the following criteria:

1. For partners interested in products, materials, or textiles to be used as a beard band, the product/material/textile should have the ability to:

- a. Be secured at the top of the head (*e.g.*, tied or hook-and-loop fasteners);
- b. Lay taut and flat across the skin without wrinkles;
- c. Be cut (lengthwise and widthwise) and tailored to fit various facial geometries; and

d. Be cleaned and decontaminated using common cleaning agents such as soap and water or cleaning wipes.

2. For partners interested in respirators, the respirator should have:

a. Current NIOSH approval for a filtering facepiece respirator, elastomeric half mask respirator offering particulate protection, or full facepiece respirators offering particulate protections;

b. Two strap head suspension with one strap that goes on the head of the wearer and the other on the neck. Novel head suspensions will not be accepted; and

c. Ability to fit multiple facial sizes.

3. For partners interested in participating in the study, participants must be able to travel to the Pittsburgh or Morgantown area to participate in the study at their own cost.

This announcement does not obligate HHS, CDC, or NIOSH to enter into a contractual or collaborative agreement with any respondents.

**Background:** The 2019 COVID-19 outbreak highlighted the ongoing need for effective respiratory protective devices for workers especially in healthcare. Fit testing of tight fitting respirators is a component of OSHA respiratory protection programs in workplaces. Respirators should be fit tested using any of the OSHA approved fit test methods before being used in workplaces. The OSHA Respiratory Protection standard, 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A), states that tight-fitting respirators shall not be worn when facial hair comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or that interferes with valve function. In this project, an under-respirator cover (beard band) on people with facial hair will be evaluated. In the first phase of this study, respirator fit will be evaluated using the NIOSH Approved® filtering facepiece respirators selected to participate in the study when worn on persons with facial hair. Then respirator fit will be determined for the same individuals wearing a beard band under the respirator.

Follow-on phases of this study may include other types of tight-fitting respirators including particulate-only elastomeric half mask respirators (EHMRs) or full facepiece respirators.

This study may also evaluate the Simulated Workplace Protection Factor (SWPF) afforded by these respirators on users with facial hair. The SWPF refers to the ratio of the concentration of the contaminant in the ambient air to that inside a respirator under conditions that simulate the work environment or various work activities.

This project seeks to support the use of filtering facepiece respirators, EHMRs with particulate protections, or full facepiece elastomeric respirators for workers with facial hair. Results of this project may be used by NIOSH approval holders to seek NIOSH approval for the use of beard bands as part of an approved respirator configuration. The study will provide data useful to support OSHA and NIOSH policy regarding the appropriateness of using beard bands with filtering facepiece respirators and particulate EHMRs or full facepiece respirators. This study may lead to increased means for employers to conform with the OSHA respiratory protection requirements and possibly increase compliance with respiratory protection guidelines and standards among bearded workers in various industries.

**John J. Howard,**

*Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.*

[FR Doc. 2024-16351 Filed 7-24-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifiers: CMS-10573]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS' intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, and to allow a second opportunity for public comment on the notice. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance

the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection(s) of information must be received by the OMB desk officer by *August 26, 2024*.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, please access the CMS PRA website by copying and pasting the following web address into your web browser: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Parham at (410) 786-4669.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (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. The term "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 publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment:

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities; *Use:* The purpose of this package is to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the collection of information requirements for the requirements of