DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
National Protection and Programs Directorate Office of Infrastructure Protection

[Docket No. DHS–2009–0026]

Submission for Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Personnel Surety Program Information Collection 1670–NEW

AGENCY: National Protection and Programs Directorate, Office of Infrastructure Protection, Infrastructure Security Compliance Division, DHS.

ACTION: 60-Day Notice and request for comments: New information collection request 1670–NEW.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Office of Infrastructure Protection, Infrastructure Security Compliance Division (ISCID) will be submitting the following information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The information collection is a new information collection. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments during a 60-day public comment period prior to the submission of this collection to OMB. The submission describes the nature of the information collection, the categories of respondents, the estimated burden, and cost.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until August 10, 2009. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8.

ADDRESS: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the proposed information collection through the Federal Rulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments must be identified by docket number DHS–2009–0026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained through the Federal Rulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Program Description

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS), 6 CFR Part 27, require high-risk chemical facilities to submit personally identifiable information (PII) from facility personnel and, as appropriate, unescorted visitors with access to restricted areas or critical assets at those facilities. This PII will be screened against the consolidated and integrated terrorist watch list maintained by the Federal Government in the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) to identify known or suspected terrorists (i.e., individuals with terrorist ties).

High-risk chemical facilities must also perform other relevant background checks in compliance with CFATS Personnel Surety risk-based performance standard (RBPS) #12. See 6 CFR 27.230(a)(12)(i–iii) (covered facilities must “perform appropriate background checks … including (i) Measures designed to verify and validate identity; (ii) Measures designed to check criminal history; [and] (iii) Measures designed to verify and validate legal authorization to work”). The CFATS Personnel Surety Program is not intended to halt, hinder, or replace high-risk chemical facilities’ performance of background checks currently required for employment or access to secure areas of those facilities.

Background

On October 4, 2006, the President signed the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007 (the Act), Public Law 109–295. Section 550 of the Act provides the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with the authority to regulate the security of high-risk chemical facilities. Section 550 requires that DHS’s regulations establish risk-based performance standards. RBPS #12 (6 CFR 27.230(a)(12)) requires that regulated chemical facilities implement “measures designed to identify people with terrorist ties.” The ability to identify individuals with terrorist ties requires use of information held in Government-maintained databases. Therefore, DHS is implementing the CFATS Personnel Surety Program which will allow chemical facilities to comply with RBPS #12 to implement “measures designed to identify people with terrorist ties.”

Overview of CFATS Personnel Surety Process

The CFATS Personnel Surety Program identifies individuals with terrorist ties by comparing PII submitted by each high-risk chemical facility to the PII of known or suspected terrorists on the consolidated and integrated terrorist watch list maintained by the Federal Government in the TSDB.

The representative(s) of each high-risk chemical facility with access to the Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT), the online data collection portal for CFATS, will submit PII of affected individuals to the CFATS Personnel Surety Program via CSAT. The PII to be submitted is the data needed by DHS to conduct screening against the consolidated and integrated terrorist watch list in the TSDB. Upon receipt of each affected individual’s PII, the CFATS Personnel Surety Program will send a copy of the PII to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). TSA will compare the PII provided by the CFATS Personnel Surety Program and the PII of known and suspected terrorists on the consolidated and integrated terrorist watch list in the TSDB.

In the event that there is a positive match, the TSC will notify the appropriate Federal law enforcement agency for coordination, investigative action, and/or response.

For positive matches, the TSC may contact the Federal agency that nominated the individual to be listed on the consolidated and integrated terrorist watch list in the TSDB for further details regarding the reasons for nominating the individual. DHS will not provide screening results to high-risk chemical facilities nor to the individuals whose PII is submitted by high-risk chemical facilities. As warranted, high-risk chemical facilities may be contacted by Federal law enforcement as a part of appropriate law enforcement investigation activity. (See the FBI System of Records published in the
Federal Register on August 22, 2007, 72 FR 47073.)

The CFATS Personnel Surety Program will send a “verification of submission” to the representative(s) of high-risk chemical facilities when: (1) A new individual’s PII has been submitted, (2) an individual’s information has been updated, and (3) when an individual’s information has been removed because he/she no longer has access to the high-risk chemical facility’s restricted areas or critical assets. “Verifications of submission” will allow for high-risk chemical facilities to demonstrate compliance with their facility Site Security Plans and with RBPS 12.

Affected Population

6 CFR 27.230(a)(12) requires facility personnel and, as appropriate, unescorted visitors with access to restricted areas or critical assets to undergo background checks. This affected population will include (1) facility personnel (e.g., employees and contractors) with access (unescorted or otherwise) to restricted areas or critical assets, and (2) unescorted visitors with access to restricted areas or critical assets. These background checks do not affect facility personnel that do not have access to facilities’ restricted areas or critical assets, nor do they affect escorted visitors.

Request for Exception to the Requirement Under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3)

The CFATS Personnel Surety Program intends to request from OMB an exception to the Paperwork Reduction Act requirement, contained in 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), that affected individuals whose PII is submitted by high-risk chemical facilities be notified of the reasons for the collection, be notified how the information will be used, be given an estimate of the average burden associated with the collection, and be notified whether responses to the collection are voluntary or mandatory. The CFATS Personnel Surety Program intends to request this exception in the event that these notices are required.

Neither Section 550 of the Act nor CFATS creates a requirement for high-risk chemical facilities to provide notice to affected individuals whose PII is submitted to the CFATS Personnel Surety Program. DHS, however, expects each high-risk facility to adhere to applicable Federal, State, local, and tribal laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to notification to individuals that their PII is being submitted to the Federal Government. The CFATS Personnel Surety Program will require each high-risk chemical facility to certify that it is collecting and submitting this information in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, local, and tribal laws, regulations, and policies.

The CFATS Personnel Surety Program’s request for an exception to the requirement under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3) would not exempt high-risk chemical facilities from having to adhere to applicable Federal, State, local, or tribal laws, regulations or policies pertaining to the privacy of facility personnel and the privacy of unescorted visitors. In fact, this exception would allow the CFATS Personnel Surety Program to avoid any conflict with such laws, regulations, and policies.

The CFATS Personnel Surety Program intends to take several steps to provide (1) adequate notice to high-risk chemical facilities of their responsibilities, and (2) general notice to affected individuals whose information will be submitted by high-risk chemical facilities to the CFATS Personnel Surety Program through this collection.

As part of Site Security Plans, required by CFATS, the Department will ask each high-risk chemical facility “Will the facility provide notification to facility personnel and, as appropriate, unescorted visitors with access to the restricted areas or critical assets that personal information about them has been or will be submitted to DHS to determine if they have terrorist ties?” High-risk chemical facilities that respond positively shall then explain their notification procedures.

- The CFATS Personnel Surety Program will publish a specific Privacy Impact Assessment.
- The CFATS Personnel Surety Program will publish in the Federal Register a specific System of Records Notice.
- The CFATS Personnel Surety Program will publish in the Federal Register the proposed exemptions for disclosure as required by the Privacy Act.
- The CFATS Personnel Surety Program will publish in the Federal Register the final exemptions for disclosure as required by the Privacy Act.

Solicitation of Comments

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

The Department is particularly interested in comments which

1. Respond to the Department’s interpretation of the population affected by RBPS #12 background checks outlined in 6 CFR 27.230(a)(12);
2. Respond to fact that a Federal law enforcement agency may, if appropriate, contact the high-risk chemical facility as a part of a law enforcement investigation into terrorist ties of facility personnel; and
3. Respond to the Department on its intention to seek an exception to the notice requirement under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3).

Analysis

Agency


Title: CFATS Personnel Surety Program

OMB Number: 1670–NEW

Background Check to Identify Terrorist Ties for an Individual at a High-Risk Chemical Facility

Frequency

As required in the schedule and timing in the high-risk chemical facilities Site Security Plan approved by DHS

Affected Public

High-risk chemical facilities as defined in 6 CFR Part 27, High-risk chemical facility personnel, and as appropriate, unescorted visitors with access to restricted areas or critical assets

Number of Respondents

354,400 individuals
Estimated Time Per Respondent
0.59 hours (35.4 minutes)

Total Burden Hours
210,351.7 annual burden hours

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup)
$0.00

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining)
$17,669,543

Signed: June 4, 2009.

Philip Reitering,
Deputy Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate Department of Homeland Security.

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BILLING CODE 9110–9P–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2009–0446]

Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee; Vacancies

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of committee establishment and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Homeland Security is establishing the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MMMAC) under authority of 6 U.S.C. 451 and shall operate under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.) and pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 451. The Committee will advise, consult with, report to, and make recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to the medical evaluation process and evaluation criteria for medical certification of merchant mariners. This may include but is not limited to:

• Commenting on Physical Qualification Requirements;

• Developing, communicating, and considering expert based and scientific recommendations;

• Examining such other matters, related to those above, that the Secretary may charge the Committee with addressing:

• Conducting studies, inquiries, workshops, and seminars in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and/or state and local government jurisdictions;

• Reviewing work from other agencies’ medical advisory boards to recommend uniform guidelines for medical/functional fitness for operators of commercial vessels.

The Committee will meet at least once a year. It may also meet for additional purposes. Subcommittees and working groups may also meet to consider specific problems.

Request for Applications

The Committee will be composed of fourteen members. Ten Committee members shall be health-care professionals with particular expertise, knowledge, or experience regarding the medical examinations of merchant mariners or occupational medicine. Four Committee members shall be professional mariners with knowledge and experience in mariners’ occupational requirements.

Initial appointments to the MMMAC shall be for terms of office of one, two, or three years. Thereafter, members shall serve terms of three years. Approximately one-third of members’ terms of office shall expire each year. A member appointed to fill an unexpired term shall serve the remainder of that term. All members may serve more than one term. In the event the MMMAC terminates, all appointments to the committee shall terminate.

In support of the policy of the Coast Guard on gender and ethnic diversity, we encourage qualified women and members of minority groups to apply.

All members shall serve as Special Government Employees (SGE), as defined in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code. As a candidate for appointment as an SGE, applicants are required to complete a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450). A completed OGE Form 450 is not releasable to the public except under an order issued by a Federal court or as otherwise provided under the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Only the Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO) or the DAEO’s designate may release a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report.

If you are interested in applying to become a member of the Committee, send a completed application to Captain Eric Christensen, DFO of the MMMAC. Send the application in time for it to be received by the DFO on or before August 3, 2009.

A copy of the application form is available in the docket for this notice. To visit our online docket, go to http://www.regulations.gov, enter the docket number for this notice USCG–2009–0446 in the Search box, and click “Go >>.” Applicants may also request an application form via fax at 1–202–372–1918.

Dated: June 3, 2009.

J. A. Watson,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Director, Prevention Policy.

[FR Doc. E9–13634 Filed 6–9–09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA–2008–0022]


AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is extending the comment period for two documents: The proposed Supplement 4 (Supplement 4) to “Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of