

(Forced Labor) and/or Convention 105 (Abolition of Forced Labor) may wish to submit relevant copies of their responses to any Observations or Direct Requests by the ILO's Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations.

Where applicable, information submissions should indicate their source or sources, and copies of the source material should be provided. If primary sources are utilized, such as research studies, interviews, direct observations, or other sources of quantitative or qualitative data, details on the research or data-gathering methodology should be provided.

Information should be submitted to the addresses and within the time period set forth above. Submissions made via fax, mail, express delivery, hand delivery, or messenger service should clearly identify the person filing the submission and should be signed and dated. Submissions made via mail, express delivery, hand delivery, or messenger service should include an original and three copies of all materials and attachments. If possible, submitters should also provide copies of such materials and attachments on a computer disc. Note that security-related screening may result in significant delays in receiving comments and other written materials by regular mail.

Classified information will not be accepted. The Office may request that classified information brought to its attention be declassified. Submissions containing confidential or personal information may be redacted by the Office before being made available to the public, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. All submissions will be made available to the public on the DOL Web site, as appropriate. The Office will not respond directly to submissions or return any submissions to the submitter, but the Office may communicate with the submitter regarding any matters relating to the submission.

#### **Announcement of Public Hearing**

DOL intends to hold a public hearing in 2008 to gather further information to assist in the development of the List. DOL expects to issue a **Federal Register** Notice announcing the hearing at least 30 days prior to the hearing date. The scope of the hearing will focus on the collection of information on child labor and forced labor in the production of goods internationally, and information on government, industry, or third-party actions and initiatives to combat child labor and forced labor. Information tending to demonstrate the presence or

absence of a significant incidence of child labor or forced labor in the production of a particular good in a country will be considered the most relevant and probative.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 20th day of December, 2007.

**Charlotte M. Ponticelli,**  
Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

### **Bureau of Labor Statistics**

#### **Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

##### **ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c) (2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "Current Population Survey (CPS)." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section below on or before February 25, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Amy A. Hobby, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212, 202-691-7628. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy A. Hobby, BLS Clearance Officer, 202-691-7628. (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

The CPS has been the principal source of the official Government

statistics on employment and unemployment for over 60 years. The labor force information gathered through the survey is of paramount importance in keeping track of the economic health of the Nation. The survey is the only source of monthly data on total employment and unemployment, with the Employment Situation report containing data from this survey being a Primary Federal Economic Indicator (PFEI). Moreover, the survey also yields data on the basic status and characteristics of persons not in the labor force. The CPS data are used monthly, in conjunction with data from other sources, to analyze the extent to which, and with what success, the various components of the American population are participating in the economic life of the Nation.

The labor force data gathered through the CPS are provided to users in the greatest detail possible, in conjunction with the demographic information obtained in the survey. In brief, the labor force data can be broken down by sex, age, race and ethnic origin, marital status, family composition, educational level, and other characteristics. Beginning in 2009, a breakdown by disability status will also be possible. Through such breakdowns, one can focus on the employment situation of specific population groups as well as on general trends in employment and unemployment. Information of this type can be obtained only through demographically oriented surveys such as the CPS.

The basic CPS data also are used as an important platform on which to base the data derived from the various supplemental questions that are administered in conjunction with the survey. By coupling the basic data from the monthly survey with the special data from the supplements, one can get valuable insights on the behavior of American workers and on the social and economic health of their families.

There is wide interest in the monthly CPS data among Government policymakers, legislators, economists, the media, and the general public. While the data from the CPS are used in conjunction with data from other surveys in assessing the economic health of the Nation, they are unique in various ways. Specifically, they are the basis for much of the monthly Employment Situation report, a PFEI. They provide a monthly, nationally representative measure of total employment, including farm work, self-employment and unpaid family work; other surveys are generally restricted to the nonagricultural wage and salary sector, or provide less timely

information. The CPS provides data on all jobseekers, and on all persons outside the labor force, while payroll-based surveys cannot, by definition, cover these sectors of the population. Finally, the CPS data on employment, unemployment, and on persons not in the labor force can be linked to the demographic characteristics of the many groups that make up the Nation's population, while the data from most other surveys are devoid of demographic information. Many groups, both in the government and in the private sector, are eager to analyze this wealth of demographic and labor force data for the populations of persons with and without disabilities.

## II. Current Action

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for the Current Population Survey (CPS). Questions are being added to the instrument in June 2008 to gather information on disability status of household members. The new questions ask if anyone in the household is deaf or has a serious difficulty hearing; if anyone is blind or has serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses; if anyone has serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition; if anyone has serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs; if anyone has difficulty dressing or bathing; and if anyone has difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition. When an affirmative answer is received, a follow up question is asked to determine which of the household members is/are affected. These new questions may be used in conjunction with the other demographic and labor force data collected in the CPS to examine the characteristics of the population of persons with disabilities and to make comparisons to the population of persons without disabilities and other groups.

These six new questions will be asked of all households in June 2008 to generate baseline data and will thereafter be asked only of households in months 1 and 5 of the interview cycle and of replacement households. Because of the initial June collection, burden hours will be higher in 2008 than in later years. In 2008, total burden for the labor force section of the CPS will be 84,000 hours (of which 7,000 hours are for the disability questions.) In 2009 and 2010, burden will fall to 82,600 hours (of which 5,600 hours are for the disability questions.)

## III. Desired Focus of Comments

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- 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.
- 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.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- 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.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

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

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* Current Population Survey (CPS).

*OMB Number:* 1220-0100.

*Affected Public:* Households.

*Total Respondents:* 55,000 per month.

*Frequency:* Monthly.

*Total Responses:* 660,000.

*Average Time per Response:* 7.6 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 84,000 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$0.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* \$0.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 19th day of December, 2007.

**Cathy Kazanowski,**

*Chief, Division of Management Systems,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Mine Safety and Health Administration

#### Fee Adjustment for Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of Mining Products

**AGENCY:** Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of fee adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** This notice describes MSHA's revised fee schedule for testing, evaluating, and approving mining products as permitted by 30 CFR 5.50. MSHA charges applicants a fee to cover its costs associated with testing and evaluating equipment and materials manufactured for use in the mining industry. The new fee schedule, effective January 1, 2008, is based on MSHA's direct and indirect costs for providing services during fiscal year (FY) 2007.

**DATES:** This fee schedule is effective January 1, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John P. Faini, Chief, Approval and Certification Center, 304-547-2029 or 304-547-0400.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

Under 30 CFR 5.50, MSHA may revise the fee schedule for testing, evaluation, and approval of mining products at least once every three years although the fee schedule must remain in effect for at least one year. MSHA last revised the fee schedule December 28, 2006 (71 FR 78224). The fee schedule became effective January 1, 2007.

Under 30 CFR 5.30(a), this fee adjustment does not apply to the 30 CFR part 15 testing (explosives and sheathed explosive units) that outside organizations perform on MSHA's behalf. In addition, under 30 CFR 5.40, this fee adjustment does not apply to travel expenses incurred under this Part. When the nature of the product requires MSHA to test and evaluate the product at a location other than on MSHA premises, MSHA must be reimbursed for the travel, subsistence, and incidental expenses of its representative according to Federal government travel regulations. This reimbursement is in addition to the fees charged for evaluation and testing.

##### II. Fee Computation

MSHA computed the 2008 fees using FY 2007 costs for baseline data. MSHA calculated a weighted-average based on the direct and indirect costs to applicants for testing, evaluation, and approval services rendered during FY 2007. From this average, MSHA computed a single hourly rate, which applies uniformly to all applications.

As a result of this process, MSHA has determined that as of January 1, 2008, the fee will be \$84 per hour of services rendered.