

THOR) parameters and (2) minimized weight, power consumption and physical dimensions appropriate for space flight. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, January 5, 1998.

Docket Number: 97-104. *Applicant:* University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0008. *Instrument:* Experimental Set-ups (Frames & Trusses). *Manufacturer:* Hi-Tech Scientific Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 5364, February 2, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides a small mechanical apparatus with instrumentation which serves as a mock-up of structures, such as a truss, frame or bridge, which students can use to perform basic experiments in structural engineering. *Advice received from:* A university laboratory instructor, March 19, 1998.

Docket Number: 97-107. *Applicant:* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 61801. *Instrument:* Near-Field Scanning Optical Microscope. *Manufacturer:* Witec GmbH, Germany. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 5504, February 3, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides: (1) operation in both transmission and reflection mode, (2) operation in liquids and (3) three separate piezo-drivers for X,Y,Z translation. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, March 5, 1998.

Docket Number: 98-003. *Applicant:* University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. *Instrument:* (40 each) HV Stopcock (Laboratory Glassware). *Manufacturer:* Louwers Hapert Glasstechnics BV, The Netherlands. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 8164, February 18, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides a unique remotely controlled high vacuum stopcock for use in automated processing systems for production of doubly labelled water. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, March 5, 1998.

The National Institutes of Health and a university laboratory instructor advise that (1) the capabilities of each of the foreign instruments described above are pertinent to each applicant's intended purpose and (2) they know of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value for the intended use of each Instrument.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus being manufactured in the

United States which is of equivalent scientific value to any of the foreign instruments.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

TITLE: Emergency Beacon Registrations.
ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to NOAA/NESDIS, James Bailey, Chief, Direct Services Division E/SP3, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Stop 9909, Washington, DC 20233-9909. Toll-free 1-888-212-7283.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Search and Rescue instruments on NOAA's weather satellites can detect distress signals from emergency beacons, which are often used on ships and aircraft. NOAA relays emergency signals to the Coast Guard and Air Force for rescue efforts. The Federal Communications Commission requires that emergency beacons be registered with NOAA. Registration information is provided to the Coast Guard with alert

information to enable it to track down owners when false alarms take place and to provide vital descriptive characteristics to speed response in actual distress cases.

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected on a form enclosed in the packaging of new emergency beacons. The form is also available on the World-Wide-Web.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0295.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; individuals; business or other for-profit; State, Local, or Tribal governments; and the Federal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,500 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$0 (no capital expenditures are required for the registration).

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: April 1, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

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