DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Tobacco Product Advertising and Promotion to Youth and Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations; Request for Comments]

[DOCKET NO. FDA–2010–N–0207]

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice; request for data and information.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is soliciting information, research, and ideas to assist FDA in fulfilling its responsibilities regarding tobacco product advertising and promotion that is designed to appeal to specific racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States. For the same reasons, we are also interested in receiving information about the advertising and promotion of menthol and other cigarettes to youth in general, and to youth in minority communities. After reviewing the submitted information, research, and ideas, FDA will be better able to fulfill its responsibilities under The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act).

DATES: Submit electronic or written comments by July 26, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic comments to http://www.regulations.gov. Submit written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen K. Quinn, Center for Tobacco Products, Food and Drug Administration, 9200 Corporate Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850–3229, 240–767–1717, e-mail: Kathleen.Quinn@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Tobacco products are responsible for more than 440,000 deaths each year. The rates of tobacco use and tobacco-related mortality are higher among certain racial/ethnic groups, including American Indian and Alaska Natives, and African-American men. As the National Cancer Institute (NCI) noted in Monograph 19, “[t]argeting of various population groups—including specific racial and ethnic populations—has been strategically important to the tobacco industry.” (Ref. 1).

The first Surgeon General’s Report to address the tobacco industry’s history of targeting its marketing to minority communities was published in 1998 (Ref. 2). Additionally, studies from the early 1990s document that outdoor tobacco advertising was disproportionately targeted to young people and to minority communities (Refs. 3 and 4). A longitudinal study conducted from 1990 to 1994 in 4 types of Los Angeles ethnic neighborhoods found that, “[c]ompared with White neighborhood thoroughfares, African American and Hispanic neighborhoods contained a greater tobacco ad density, and all minority neighborhoods contained greater tobacco ad concentration along the roadsides * * * . These data are consistent with the assertion that tobacco companies target ethnic minorities with higher rates of advertising and ethnically tailored campaigns.” (Ref. 5). A meta-analysis published in 2007 confirmed that “African Americans are exposed to a higher volume of pro-tobacco advertising in terms of both concentration and density.” (Ref. 6). In addition to the volume of advertising, the methods used in targeting advertisements to some specific communities have also been studied. For example, Monograph 19 discusses how advertising for mentholated brands to African-Americans was designed around lifestyle appeals relating to “fantasy and escapism,” “expensive objects,” and “nightlife, entertainment, and music” themes (Ref. 7). However, as NCI noted, “little attention has been paid to understanding tobacco marketing aimed at American Indians and Alaska Natives, despite their high prevalence of tobacco use.” (Ref. 8).

Tobacco marketing to Asian Americans is also under-studied. On June 22, 2009, the President signed the Tobacco Control Act into law. The Tobacco Control Act grants FDA important new authority to regulate the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products to protect the public health generally and to reduce tobacco use by minors. Among its many provisions, the Tobacco Control Act added section 907(e)(1) to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) (21 U.S.C. 387g(e)(1)). Section 907(e)(1) of the act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to “refer to the [Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory] Committee for report and recommendation * * * on the issue of the impact of the use of menthol in cigarettes on the public health, including such use among children,
African-Americans, Hispanics, and other racial and ethnic minorities.”

In addition, section 906(d) of the act (21 U.S.C. 387f(d)) gives the Secretary authority to impose restrictions on the advertising and promotion of a tobacco product that the Secretary determines are appropriate to protect the public health.

Section 105(a) of the Tobacco Control Act (21 U.S.C. 387f-1) requires the Secretary to develop and publish an action plan to enforce restrictions on the sale, distribution, promotion, and advertising of menthol and other cigarettes to youth. The provision requires that the Secretary develop this plan in consultation with public health organizations and other stakeholders with demonstrated experience and expertise in serving minority communities. The action plan must also include provisions designed to ensure enforcement of the restrictions on the sale, distribution, promotion, and advertising of menthol and other cigarettes to youth in minority communities.

More information about tobacco advertising, promotion, and marketing to minority population groups will assist FDA in implementing the public health goals of the Tobacco Control Act. To assist FDA in carrying out the previously mentioned provisions in a manner that will protect the public health, FDA seeks information about the advertising and promotion of tobacco products to particular racial and ethnic minority populations. A better understanding of this advertising and promotion will help FDA understand what steps, if any, may be appropriate under section 906(d) of the act.

In addition, we are requesting comments that will assist the agency’s development of an action plan regarding enforcement of regulations on advertising and promotion of menthol and other cigarettes to youth generally and to youth in minority communities.

FDA is also seeking information that will assist the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee in understanding and developing recommendations regarding the impact of the use of menthol in cigarettes among children, African-Americans, Hispanics, and other racial and ethnic minorities.

III. Comments

Interested persons may submit to the Division of Dockets Management (see ADDRESSES) or electronically or written comments regarding this document. It is only necessary to send one set of comments. It is no longer necessary to send two copies of mailed comments. Identify comments with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

IV. References

The following references have been placed on display in the Division of Dockets Management (see ADDRESSES) and may be seen by interested persons between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.


4. Ammerman, S.D. & M. Nolden, “Neighborhood-Based Tobacco Advertising Targeting Adolescents,” Western Journal of Medicine; 162, pp. 514–518, 1995 (finding that adolescent exposure to tobacco billboard advertisements in San Francisco in 1992 and 1993 was greater in Latino neighborhoods due to a greater adolescent population, and finding that qualitative analyses of the tobacco advertisements “suggested that adolescents are the primary targets.”)


8. Id., p. 15.

Dated: May 21, 2010.

Leslie Kux,

Acting Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID: FEMA–2010–0029]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request, 1660–0032; U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Academy Evaluation Collection

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice; 60-day notice and request for comments; revision of a currently approved information collection; OMB No. 1660–0032; FEMA Form 064–0–4, NFA Distance Learning Course Evaluation Form; FEMA Form 064–0–5, NFA End of Course Evaluation Form; FEMA Form 064–0–10, USFA Conference/Symposium Form.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal