



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-26-0260; Docket No. CDC-2026-1090]

Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice with comment period.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other Federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled Health Hazard Evaluations/Technical Assistance and Emerging Problems. In accordance with its mandates under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) responds to requests for Health Hazard Evaluations (HHEs) to identify chemical, biological or physical hazards in workplaces throughout the United States.

DATES: CDC must receive written comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION DATE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2026-1090 by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number.

CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to www.regulations.gov.

Please note: Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal

(www.regulations.gov) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404-639-7570; E-mail: omb@cdc.gov.

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. In addition, the PRA also requires federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the *Federal Register* concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

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;

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; and
5. Assess information collection costs.

Proposed Project

Health Hazard Evaluations/Technical Assistance and Emerging Problems (OMB Control No. 0920-0260, Exp. 1/31/2027) – Extension - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

In accordance with its mandates under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, NIOSH responds to requests for Health Hazard Evaluations (HHEs) to identify chemical, biological or physical hazards in workplaces throughout the United States. Each year, NIOSH receives approximately 250 such requests, although that number has been lower in most recent years. Most HHE requests come from workplaces in the following industrial sectors: services, manufacturing, health and social services, transportation, and construction.

A printed HHE request form is available in English and Spanish. The English and Spanish forms are also available on the Internet and differ from the printed version only in format and in the fact that they can be submitted directly from the website. The HHE request form is also available online in Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Mixteco, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The request form, regardless of language, takes an estimated 12 minutes to complete. The form provides the mechanism for employees, employers, and other authorized representatives to supply the information required by the regulations governing the NIOSH HHE program (42 CFR 85.3-1). NIOSH reviews the HHE request to determine if an on-site evaluation is needed. The primary purpose of an on-site evaluation is to help employers and employees

identify and eliminate occupational health hazards. For 25% of the requests received, NIOSH determines an on-site evaluation is needed.

In about 70% of on-site evaluations, employees are interviewed in an informal manner to help further define concerns. Interviews may take approximately 15 minutes per respondent. The interview questions are specific to each workplace and its suspected diseases and hazards. However, interviews are based on standard medical practices. NIOSH estimates that two on-site evaluations (less than 1%) will involve medical tests or the collection of biological samples that would require written informed consent. Informed consent is the process of a participant agreeing to take part in a specific activity of the HHE which includes explaining the purpose of the medical test or biological sample, what medical test or biological sample is being conducted/collected, potential risk and benefits of participating, and collecting contact information if the participant would like their individual results sent directly to them. At the end of the informed consent process, the participant may decline to participate in the activity (no signature or contact information collected) or agree to participate. The estimated time to complete the informed consent process is 30 minutes. If 30 employees are monitored at each of the two work sites, the burden from this activity is 30 hours.

In approximately 30% of on-site evaluations questionnaires are distributed to the employees (averaging about 100 employees per site). Questionnaires may require approximately 30 minutes to complete. The survey questions are specific to each workplace and its suspected diseases and hazards, however, items in the questionnaires are derived from standardized or widely used medical and epidemiologic data collection instruments.

About 70% of the on-site evaluations involve employee exposure monitoring in the workplace. Employees participating in on-site evaluations by wearing a sampler or monitoring device to measure personal workplace exposures are offered the opportunity to get notification of their exposure results. To accept or decline notification, employees complete a contact information post card. Completing the contact card may take five minutes or less. The number of

employees monitored for workplace exposures per on-site evaluation is estimated to be 25 per site.

NIOSH distributes interim and final reports of Health Hazard Evaluations, excluding personal identifiers, to requesters, employers, employee representatives, the Department of Labor (Occupational Safety and Health Administration or Mine Safety and Health Administration, as appropriate), state health departments, and, as needed, other state and federal agencies. NIOSH administers a follow back program to assess the effectiveness of its HHE program in reducing workplace hazards. This program entails the mailing of follow back questionnaires to employer and employee representatives at all the workplaces where NIOSH conducted an on-site evaluation. In a small number of instances, a follow back on-site evaluation may be completed. The first follow back questionnaire is sent shortly after the first visit for an on-site evaluation and takes about 10 minutes to complete. A second follow back questionnaire is sent after the final report is completed and requires about 20 minutes to complete. At 12 months, a third follow back questionnaire is sent which takes about 15 minutes to complete. For requests where NIOSH does not conduct an on-site evaluation, the requester receives the first follow back questionnaire after our response letter is sent and a second one 12 months after our response. The first questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete, and the second questionnaire takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Due to the number of investigations conducted each year, the need to respond quickly to requests for assistance, the diverse and unpredictable nature of these investigations, and its follow back program to assess evaluation effectiveness, NIOSH requests a consolidated clearance for data collections performed within the domain of its HHE program. A three-year approval is requested, with 1,745 total estimated annual burden hours. There is no cost to respondents other than their time.

Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Respondents	Form Name	Number of	Number of	Average	Total
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		Respondents	Responses per Respondent	Burden per Response (in hours)	Burden (in hours)
Employees and Representatives	Health Hazard Evaluation Request Form	175	1	12/60	35
Employers	Health Hazard Evaluation Request Form	75	1	12/60	15
Employees	Health Hazard Evaluation specific interview example	1470	1	15/60	368
Employees	Informed Consnet	60	1	30/60	30
Employees	Health Hazard Evaluation specific questionnaire example	2100	1	30/60	1,050
Employees	Contact information post card	1225	1	5/60	102
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 1 (on-site evaluation)	First followback questionnaire	140	1	10/60	23
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 1(on-site evaluation)	Second followback questionnaire	140	1	20/60	47
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 2 (on-site evaluation)	Third follow-back questionnaire	140	1	15/60	35
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 1 (without on-site evaluation)	First followback questionnaire	94	1	10/60	16
Employees and Representatives; Employers - Year 2 (without on-site evaluation)	Second followback questionnaire	94	1	15/60	24
Total					1,745

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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