

publish this public notice of its final decision on an application.

MET submitted a request, dated June 3, 1998 (see Exhibit 20A), to expand its recognition to use additional test standards. MET provided some additional information related to this request on August 21, 1998 (see Exhibit 20B). MET will notify OSHA, as stated in this letter, regarding a change in its existing capability to perform explosion tests. Relatedly, OSHA is imposing limitations on the testing permitted under certain test standards.

OSHA published the required notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 63085, 11/10/98) to announce the application. The notice included a preliminary finding that MET could meet the requirements in 29 CFR 1910.7 for expansion of its recognition, and invited public comment on the applications by January 11, 1999. OSHA received no comments concerning this application. MET's previous application as an NRTL covered the renewal and an expansion of its recognition (61 FR 41661, 8/6/96), which OSHA granted on November 20, 1996 (61 FR 225).

You may obtain or review copies of all public documents pertaining to the application by contacting the Docket Office, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N2625, Washington, DC 20210. You should refer to Docket No. NRTL-1-88, the permanent record of public information on the MET recognition.

The current address of the testing facility (site) that OSHA recognizes for MET is: MET Laboratories, Inc., 914 West Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

Final Decision and Order

The NRTL Program staff has examined the application, additional information submitted, other pertinent information, and the recommendation by the audit staff, in a memo dated September 9, 1998 (see Exhibit 21), to expand MET's recognition to include the additional test standards. Based upon this examination, OSHA finds that MET has met the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.7 for expansion of its recognition to use an additional 17 test standards, subject to the limitations and conditions listed below. Pursuant to the authority in 29 CFR 1910.7, OSHA hereby expands the recognition of MET, subject to these limitations and conditions. As is the case for any NRTL, MET's recognition is further limited to equipment or materials (products) for which OSHA standards require third party testing and certification before use in the workplace.

Limitations

OSHA hereby expands the recognition of MET for testing and certification of products to demonstrate compliance to the following 17 standards. OSHA has determined that each standard meets the requirements for an appropriate test standard prescribed in 29 CFR 1910.7(c).

- ANSI/UL 5 Surface Metal Raceways and Fittings
- ANSI/UL 50 Enclosures for Electrical Equipment
- ANSI/UL 65 Electric Wired Cabinets
- ANSI/UL 201 Garage Equipment
- ANSI/UL 482 Portable Sun/Heat Lamps
- ANSI/UL 514A Metallic Outlet Boxes, Electrical
- UL 664 Commercial Dry-Cleaning Machines (Type IV)
- ANSI/UL 698 Industrial Control Equipment for Use in Hazardous (Classified) Locations
- UL 775 Graphic Arts Equipment
- ANSI/UL 886 Outlet Boxes and Fittings for Use in Hazardous (Classified) Locations¹
- ANSI/UL 1017 Vacuum Cleaning Machines and Blower Cleaners
- ANSI/UL 1018 Electric Aquarium Equipment
- ANSI/UL 1054 Special-Use Switches
- ANSI/UL 1203 Explosion-Proof and Dust-Ignition-Proof Electrical Equipment for Use in Hazardous (Classified) Locations¹
- ANSI/UL 1310 Direct Plug-In Transformer Units
- ANSI/UL 1573 Stage and Studio Lighting Units
- UL 6500 Audio/Visual and Musical Instrument Apparatus for Household, Commercial, and Similar General Use

Conditions

MET must also abide by the following conditions of the recognition, in addition to those already required by 29 CFR 1910.7:

OSHA must be allowed access to MET's facility and records for purposes of ascertaining continuing compliance with the terms of its recognition and to investigate as OSHA deems necessary;

If MET has reason to doubt the efficacy of any test standard it is using under this program, it must promptly inform the test standard developing organization of this fact and provide that organization with appropriate relevant information upon which its concerns are based;

¹ Testing and certification of products under this test standard is limited to Class I locations. Explosion testing is also limited to current test chamber capabilities.

MET must not engage in or permit others to engage in any misrepresentation of the scope or conditions of its recognition. As part of this condition, MET agrees that it will allow no representation that it is either a recognized or an accredited Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) without clearly indicating the specific equipment or material to which this recognition is tied, or that its recognition is limited to certain products;

MET must inform OSHA as soon as possible, in writing, of any change of ownership or key personnel, and of any major changes in its operations as an NRTL, including details;

MET will meet all the terms of its recognition and will always comply with all OSHA policies pertaining to this recognition;

MET will continue to meet the requirements for recognition in all areas where it has been recognized; and

MET will always cooperate with OSHA to assure compliance with the spirit as well as the letter of its recognition and 29 CFR 1910.7.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 24th day of February, 1999.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-5791 Filed 3-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. NRTL-3-90]

Southwest Research Institute, Renewal & Expansion of Recognition

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Agency's final decision on the applications of Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), under 29 CFR 1910.7, for renewal of its recognition as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL), and for an expansion of its recognition to use additional test standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This recognition becomes effective on March 9, 1999, unless modified in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.7, continues in effect while SwRI remains recognized by OSHA as an NRTL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernard Pasquet, Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities,

NRTL Program, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N3653, Washington, D.C. 20210, or phone (202) 693-2110.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Notice of Final Decision

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) hereby gives notice of the renewal of recognition of Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) and the expansion of recognition to include the use of the additional test standards listed below. OSHA recognizes an organization as an NRTL and processes applications related to such recognitions following requirements in Section 1910.7 of Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1910.7). Appendix A to this section requires that OSHA publish this public notice of its final decision on an application.

When first recognized, OSHA identified the Department of Fire Technology as the SwRI unit to which the recognition would apply. The renewal of recognition continues to apply primarily to this part of SwRI, although part of the recognition, such as the requirement for independence, applies to SwRI as a whole.

SwRI received its recognition as an NRTL on July 13, 1993 (58 FR 37752), for a period of five years ending July 13, 1998. Appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7 stipulates that the period of recognition of an NRTL is five years and that an NRTL may renew its recognition by applying not less than nine months, nor more than one year, before the expiration date of its current recognition. SwRI applied for renewal of its recognition on October 1, 1997 (see Exhibit 6A), within the time allotted, and retained its recognition pending OSHA's final decision in this renewal process.

SwRI submitted a request, also dated on October 1, 1997 (see Exhibit 6B), to expand its recognition to use additional test standards. OSHA determined that some of the standards that were requested are not appropriate, as prescribed by 29 CFR 1910.7(c). In addition, OSHA had recognized SwRI for ASTM E152 but the standards organization has since withdrawn this standard. As a result, this standard is not included in SwRI's renewal. In general, OSHA's recognition only applies to the test standards listed below.

OSHA published the required notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 63086, 11/10/98) to announce the applications. The notice included a preliminary

finding that SwRI could meet the requirements in 29 CFR 1910.7 for renewal and for expansion of its recognition, and invited public comment on the applications by January 11, 1999. OSHA received no comments concerning these applications. SwRI's previous application as an NRTL covered its recognition (57 FR 30237, 7/8/92), which OSHA granted on the date noted above.

You may obtain or review copies of all public documents pertaining to the applications by contacting the Docket Office, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N2625, Washington, D.C. 20210. You should refer to Docket No. NRTL-3-90, the permanent record of public information on the SwRI recognition.

The current address of the testing facility (site) that OSHA recognizes for SwRI is: Southwest Research Institute, Department of Fire Technology, 6620 Culebra Road, Post Office Drawer 28510, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

Final Decision and Order

The NRTL Program staff has examined the applications, the OSHA staff findings and recommendations, including the on-site review report, dated June 12, 1998 (see Exhibit 7) and other pertinent documents related to the applications. Based upon this examination, OSHA finds that SwRI Department of Fire Technology has met the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.7 for the renewal of recognition of its San Antonio, Texas site, and for expansion of its recognition to use additional test standards, subject to the limitations and conditions listed below. Pursuant to the authority in 29 CFR 1910.7, OSHA hereby renews and expands the recognition of SwRI, subject to these limitations and conditions. As is the case for any NRTL, SwRI's recognition is further limited to equipment or materials (products) for which OSHA standards require third party testing and certification before use in the workplace.

Limitations

Renewal of NRTL Recognition

OSHA hereby renews the recognition of SwRI for testing and certification of products to demonstrate compliance to the following 7 test standards that OSHA previously recognized for SwRI. OSHA has determined each standard continues to meet the requirements for an appropriate test standard prescribed in 29 CFR 1910.7(c).

UL 10A Tin-Clad Fire Doors

ANSI/UL 10B Fire Tests of Door Assemblies

ANSI/UL 94 Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances

ANSI/UL 155 Tests of Fire Resistance of Vault and File Room Doors

ANSI/UL 555 Fire Dampers

ANSI/UL 910 Test Method for Fire and Smoke Characteristics of Electrical and Optical-Fiber Cables Used in Air Handling Spaces

ANSI/UL 1887 Fire Test of Plastic Sprinkler Pipe for Flame and Smoke Characteristics

Expansion of Recognition—Additional Test Standards

OSHA hereby expands the recognition of SwRI for testing and certification of products to demonstrate compliance to the following 3 test standards. OSHA has determined that each standard meets the requirements for an appropriate test standard prescribed in 29 CFR 1910.7(c).

UL 162 Foam Equipment and Liquid Concentrates

ANSI/UL 711 Rating and Fire Testing of Fire Extinguishers

UL 2085 Insulated Aboveground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Conditions

SwRI must also abide by the following conditions of the recognition, in addition to those already required by 29 CFR 1910.7:

OSHA must be allowed access to SwRI's facility and records for purposes of ascertaining continuing compliance with the terms of its recognition and to investigate as OSHA deems necessary;

If SwRI has reason to doubt the efficacy of any test standard it is using under this program, it must promptly inform the test standard developing organization of this fact and provide that organization with appropriate relevant information upon which its concerns are based;

SwRI must not engage in or permit others to engage in any misrepresentation of the scope or conditions of its recognition. As part of this condition, SwRI agrees that it will allow no representation that it is either a recognized or an accredited Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) without clearly indicating the specific equipment or material to which this recognition is tied, or that its recognition is limited to certain products;

SwRI must inform OSHA as soon as possible, in writing, of any change of ownership or key personnel, and of any

major changes in its operations as an NRTL, including details;

SwRI will meet all the terms of its recognition and will always comply with all OSHA policies pertaining to this recognition;

SwRI will continue to meet the requirements for recognition in all areas where it has been recognized; and

SwRI will always cooperate with OSHA to assure compliance with the spirit as well as the letter of its recognition and 29 CFR 1910.7.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 24th day of February 1999.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-5790 Filed 3-8-99; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. This is the *second notice* for public comment; the first was published in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 67150, and *no comments were received*. NSF is forwarding the proposed renewal submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 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 should be addressed to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation, 725-17th Street, N.W. Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503, and to Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science

Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230 or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling 703-306-1125 X 2017.

NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Title: Outcomes and Impacts of the State/Industry University Research Center (S/IUCRC) Program.

OMB Control Number: 3145-0153.

Summary of Collection: NSF's Directorate for Engineering established the State/Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (S/IUCRC) Program in 1990. The Program was built on a model established by NSF's Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers.

To achieve these objectives, data will be collected from representatives from organizations that have been members of the nine oldest S/IUCRCs (award cohorts 1991 and 1992) about the results in their organization of involvement with the center. Data will not be used to evaluate individual centers, but, rather, to study the Program as a whole. To isolate the unique effects of the distinctive features of the S/IUCRC Program, the project also will include a collection of similar data from organization representatives to 20 of the I/IUCRCs as well (there are over 50 I/IUCRCs) The I/IUCRC data will be compared with the S/IUCRC data to enable identification of results from the S/IUCRC Program that emanate from the latter Program's distinctive elements.

Need and Use of the Information: The resulting information will be used to look at program-wide patterns of outcomes and impacts on organizations that are members of both types of centers. Lessons learned will be used for continuous performance improvement in the presently funded S/IUCRCs. In addition, lessons about the characteristics that facilitate state-NSF partnerships will be prepared for use in future planning of state-NSF partnerships.

Description of Respondents: Individuals.

Number of Respondents: 580 (80% expected to respond—464 respondents).

Frequency of Responses: One time.
Total Burden Hours: 232 hours, broken down by 30 minutes per respondent at 580 respondents.

Dated: March 3, 1999.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 99-5677 Filed 3-8-99; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Proposed Data Collection: Public's Views and Comments

Title of Proposed Collection: Public Attitudes About Technology

The National Science Foundation, an independent federal agency, is interested in obtaining the public's views and attitudes toward year 2000 computer readiness.

Specifically, we are seeking input and comments from all interested persons on their views of the value of computer technology in their lives, and their familiarity with and level of comfort when using computers and their familiarity with problems that may result from year 2000 computer conversion issues.

In an effort to obtain the public's input and useful information, the National Science Foundation has developed the questions that follow. Responses from the public will be used only in the aggregate, and only to help NSF in its efforts to better explain itself and its activities to the American public.

We hope you will provide us with your thoughts on the following questions. Detailed comments are also welcome and greatly appreciated.

Responses and comments can be mailed to Public Attitudes about Year 2000 Conversion, c/o Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 1245, Arlington, VA 22230. Comments can also be sent via email to nstw@nsf.gov, or faxed to (703) 306-1057.

All comments should be received by Tuesday, March 9, 1999.

Dated: March 3, 1999.

Julia Moore,

Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs.

Y2K Millennium Readiness Poll

March 6-7, 1999

1. As you may know, most computer systems around the world have to be reprogrammed so that they can accurately recognize the date once we