

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****Office of the Secretary****United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement; Notice of Determination Regarding Review of Submission #2015-01**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Trade and Labor Affairs (OTLA) gives notice that on September 21, 2015, Submission #2015-01 regarding Peru was accepted for review pursuant to Article 17.5.5 of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA).

On July 23, 2015, the International Labor Rights Forum, *Perú Equidad*, and seven Peruvian workers' organizations provided a formal submission to OTLA alleging violations of Chapter 17 (the Labor Chapter) of the PTPA by the Government of Peru (GOP). The submission alleges that the GOP has failed to adopt and maintain in its statutes and regulations, and practices thereunder, the right of freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, and that it has also failed to effectively enforce its labor laws with respect to freedom of association, collective bargaining, and acceptable conditions of work.

OTLA's decision to accept the submission for review is not intended to indicate any determination as to the validity or accuracy of the allegations contained in the submission. The objective of the review will be to gather information so that OTLA can better understand the allegations contained in the submission and publicly report on the issues raised therein in light of the GOP's obligations under the Labor Chapter of the PTPA. As set out in the Procedural Guidelines (published as 71 FR 76691, December 21, 2006), OTLA will complete the review and issue a public report to the Secretary of Labor within 180 days of this acceptance, unless circumstances, as determined by OTLA, require an extension of time.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* September 21, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Matthew Levin, Director, OTLA, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room S-5303, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-4900. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Article 17.5 of the Labor Chapter of the PTPA establishes that each Party's contact

point shall provide for the submission, receipt, and consideration of communications ("submissions") on matters related to the Labor Chapter and each Party shall review those submissions in accordance with domestic procedures. A **Federal Register** notice issued on December 21, 2006, informed the public that the OTLA had been designated as the office to serve as the contact point for implementing the labor provisions of United States free trade agreements. The same **Federal Register** notice informed the public of the Procedural Guidelines that OTLA would follow for the receipt and review of public submissions (71 FR 76691, December 21, 2006). These Procedural Guidelines are available at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/pdf/2006021837.pdf>. According to the definitions contained in the Procedural Guidelines (Section B) a "submission" is "a communication from the public containing specific allegations, accompanied by relevant supporting information, that another Party has failed to meet its commitments or obligations arising under a labor chapter" of a U.S. free trade agreement.

The Procedural Guidelines specify that OTLA shall consider six factors, to the extent that they are relevant, in determining whether to accept a submission for review:

1. Whether the submission raises issues relevant to any matter arising under a labor chapter;
2. Whether a review would further the objectives of a labor chapter;
3. Whether the submission clearly identifies the person filing the submission, is signed and dated, and is sufficiently specific to determine the nature of the request and permit an appropriate review;
4. Whether the statements contained in the submission, if substantiated, would constitute a failure of the other Party to comply with its obligations or commitments under a labor chapter;
5. Whether the statements contained in the submission or available information demonstrate that appropriate relief has been sought under the domestic laws of the other Party, or that the matter or a related matter is pending before an international body; and
6. Whether the submission is substantially similar to a recent submission and significant, new information has been furnished that would substantially differentiate the submission from the one previously filed.

U.S. Submission # 2015-01 alleges that, by permitting the unlimited consecutive renewal of short-term

contracts under the Law Promoting Non-Traditional Exports (Law No. 22342) and Article 80 of the Law of Productivity and Labor Competitiveness (Law No. 728, Supreme Decree No. 003-97-TR), the GOP has failed to adopt and maintain, in its statutes and regulations, and practices thereunder, the right of freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. The submission also cites specific instances to support its allegation that the GOP, through its action or inaction, has failed to effectively enforce its labor laws in the non-traditional export and agricultural sectors with respect to freedom of association, the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, and acceptable conditions of work.

In determining whether to accept the submission, OTLA considered the statements in the submission in light of the relevant factors identified in the Procedural Guidelines. The submission raises issues relevant to the Labor Chapter of the PTPA because it cites alleged GOP failures to adopt and maintain in its statutes and regulations, and practices thereunder, freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, and alleged GOP failures to effectively enforce its labor laws with respect to freedom of association, collective bargaining, and acceptable conditions of work. It also clearly identifies the submitter and is sufficiently specific to determine the nature of the request and permit an appropriate review. The submission raises pertinent issues that could further the objectives of the Labor Chapter and that could, if substantiated, constitute a failure of the GOP to comply with its obligations under the Labor Chapter. The submitters provided information on specific cases of alleged labor violations and included citations to both Peruvian law and International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions ratified by Peru that they believe were violated by the allegations in the submission. The submitters provided information on efforts to seek appropriate relief for these alleged violations under domestic laws and to raise the issues with GOP officials and with the ILO. The submission also notes that the issues raised in the submission have not been remedied to date. OTLA has not received similar submissions related to the PTPA obligations of the GOP. Accordingly, OTLA has accepted the submission for review.

OTLA's decision to accept the submission for review is not intended to indicate any determination as to the validity or accuracy of the allegations contained in the submission. The

objective of the review will be to gather information so that OTLA can better understand the allegations contained in the submission and to publicly report on the issues raised therein. As set out in the Procedural Guidelines, OTLA will complete the review and issue a public report to the Secretary of Labor within 180 days, unless circumstances, as determined by OTLA, require an extension of time. The public report will include a summary of the review process, as well as any findings and recommendations.

Signed at Washington, DC, on September 21, 2015.

**Carol Pier,**

*Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2012-0013]

#### The Lead in General Industry Standard; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements

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

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA solicits public comments concerning its proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements contained in the Lead in General Industry Standard (29 CFR 1910.1025).

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted (postmarked, sent, or received) by November 24, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Electronically:* You may submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments.

*Facsimile:* If your comments, including attachments, are not longer than 10 pages you may fax them to the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-1648.

*Mail, hand delivery, express mail, messenger, or courier service:* When using this method, you must submit your comments and attachments to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. OSHA-2012-0013, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S.

Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210. Deliveries (hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service) are accepted during the Department of Labor's and Docket Office's normal business hours, 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., e.t.

**Instructions:** All submissions must include the Agency name and the OSHA docket number (OSHA-2012-0013) for the Information Collection Request (ICR). All comments, including any personal information you provide, are placed in the public docket without change, and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For further information on submitting comments see the "Public Participation" heading in the section of this notice titled **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**Docket:** To read or download comments or other material in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or the OSHA Docket Office at the address above. All documents in the docket (including this **Federal Register** notice) are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from the Web site. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. You may also contact Theda Kenney at the address below to obtain a copy of the ICR.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Theda Kenney or Todd Owen, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3609, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210; telephone (202) 693-2222.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (*i.e.*, employer) burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collection of information requirements in accord with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA-95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA's estimate of the information collection burden is accurate. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (the OSH Act) (29 U.S.C. 651 *et*

*seq.*) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the OSH Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657). The OSH Act also requires that OSHA obtain such information with minimum burden upon employers, especially those operating small businesses, and to reduce to the maximum extent feasible unnecessary duplication of efforts in obtaining information (29 U.S.C. 657).

The purpose of the Lead in General Industry Standard and its collection of information requirements is to reduce occupational lead exposure in general industry. Lead exposure can result in both acute and chronic effects and can be fatal in severe cases of lead toxicity. The standard contains the following collection of information requirements: Conducting worker exposure monitoring; notifying workers of their lead exposure levels; establishing, implementing and reviewing a written compliance program annually; labeling containers of contaminated protective clothing and equipment; providing medical surveillance to workers; providing examining physicians with specific information; notifying workers of their medical surveillance results (including medical examinations and biological monitoring) and of the option for multiple physician review; posting warning signs; establishing and maintaining exposure monitoring, medical surveillance, and medical removal records; and providing workers with access to these records. The records are used by employees, physicians, employers and OSHA to determine the effectiveness of the employer's compliance efforts.

**II. Special Issues for Comment**

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed collection of information requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the Agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the collection of information requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply; for example, by using automated or other technological information collection and transmission techniques.