



# Ballot Vote Sheet

**TO:** The Commission  
Alberta E. Mills, Secretary

**THROUGH:** Jessica L. Rich, General Counsel  
Austin C. Schlick, Executive Director

**FROM:** Daniel R. Vice, Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Affairs  
Tayyaba W. Zeb, Attorney, Regulatory Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Draft *Federal Register* Notice: Extension and Revision of Collection; Consumer Focus Groups and Other Qualitative Studies

**DATE:** January 31, 2024

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## **BALLOT VOTE DUE:** February 6, 2024

Attached for the Commission's consideration is a draft notice for publication in the *Federal Register*, announcing that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to extend and revise an existing approval for a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). As part of the Commission's identification and evaluation of product-related incidents, staff obtains direct feedback from consumers through focus groups.

OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) previously approved CPSC's use of focus groups under the PRA, with the most recent extension approved in January 2021. Following OIRA's grant of an extension, the previous approval expires on March 31, 2024. The draft notice proposes a further three-year extension of that approval. In addition, the notice proposes to revise the collection to specifically include usability studies and ethnographic studies as authorized information collections. CPSC has conducted these types of studies as part of a focus group process approved by OIRA. Explicitly adding them to the scope of the information collection will permit CPSC to conduct such research independently, separate from any focus group.

CPSC published a notice in the *Federal Register* on November 28, 2023, announcing the agency's intention to seek extension of approval of the collection of information. CPSC received no responsive comments. Consistent with the OMB's PRA process, staff now recommends that the Commission publish the accompanying draft second notice so that staff can concurrently submit the request to OMB for final review.

Please indicate your vote on the following options:

**U.S. Consumer Product  
Safety Commission**  
4330 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**National Product Testing  
and Evaluation Center**  
5 Research Place  
Rockville, MD 20850

I. Approve publication of the attached notice in the *Federal Register*, as drafted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

II. Approve publication of the attached notice in the *Federal Register*, with the following changes.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

III. Do not approve publication of the attached notice in the *Federal Register*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

IV. Take other action specified below.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Attachment: Draft *Federal Register* notice: Extension and Revision of Collection; Consumer Focus Groups and Other Qualitative Studies

BILLING CODE 6355-01-P

**CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION****[Docket No. CPSC-2010-0046]****Agency Information Collection Activities; Extension and Revision of Collection; Consumer Focus Groups and Other Qualitative Studies****AGENCY:** Consumer Product Safety Commission.**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection; Request for Comment.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) announces that the Commission has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for extension of approval of a collection of information from persons who may voluntarily participate in consumer focus groups. CPSC has also requested a revision of that collection. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) previously approved the collection of information under Control Number 3041-0136. OMB's most recent extension of approval will expire on March 31, 2024. On November 28, 2023, CPSC published a notice in the *Federal Register* to announce the agency's intention to seek extension of approval of the collection of information. The Commission received no comments. Therefore, by publication of this notice, the Commission announces that CPSC has submitted to the OMB a request for extension of approval of that collection of information.

**DATES:** Submit comments on the collection of information by **[insert date 30 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments about this request by email: [OIRA\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax: 202-395-6881. Comments by mail should be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the CPSC, Office of Management and Budget,

Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. In addition, written comments that are sent to OMB also should be submitted electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, under Docket No. CPSC-2010-0046.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cynthia Gillham, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; (301) 504-7791, or by e-mail to: [pra@cpsc.gov](mailto:pra@cpsc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** CPSC seeks to extend the following currently approved collection of information, and to revise it to include additional forms of qualitative studies:

*Title:* Focus Groups and Other Qualitative Studies.

*OMB Number:* 3041-0136.

*Type of Review:* Extension and revision of collection.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Affected Public:* Consumers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* CPSC estimates that this collection will involve 2,620 participants, including prospective focus group participants who are screened but ultimately not selected for participation.

*Estimated Time per Response:* We estimate that the average response time for each participant will be 1.1 hours.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden:* Based on CPSC's estimates that 2,620 participants will each spend an average of 1.1 hours responding to the collection, CPSC estimates that the total annual burden of this collection is 2,882 hours. The annualized cost to respondents for the

information collection is \$124,675.32 (2,882 hours x \$43.26/hour), as estimated from total compensation data available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.<sup>1</sup>

*General Description of Collection:* Section 5(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. 2054(a), authorizes the Commission to conduct studies and investigations relating to the causes and prevention of deaths, accidents, injuries, illnesses, other health impairments, and economic losses associated with consumer products. Section 5(b) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. 2054(b), further provides that the Commission may conduct research, studies, and investigations on the safety of consumer products. The Commission may also test consumer products and develop product safety test methods and testing devices.

To help identify and evaluate product-related incidents, Commission staff invites and obtains direct feedback from consumers on issues related to product safety, such as recall effectiveness, product use, and perceptions regarding safety issues. The information that CPSC collects from future focus groups – including usability studies and ethnographic studies for consumer products, which are being added to this revised collection – will help inform the Commission’s identification and evaluation of consumer products and product uses by providing insight and information into consumer perceptions and usage patterns. In some cases, one-on-one interviews may be conducted as a more in-depth extension of a focus group, or in place of a traditional focus group or study. This information may also assist the Commission in its efforts to support voluntary standards activities and help CPSC identify emerging consumer safety issues requiring additional research. In addition, based on the information obtained, CPSC may

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<sup>1</sup> Total hourly compensation for all civilian workers is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to be \$43.26: Employer Costs for Employee Compensation, June 2023, Table 1, ([https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/ecec\\_09122023.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/ecec_09122023.pdf)).

be able to improve the readability and comprehension of safety information provided to the public.

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Alberta E. Mills, Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission