DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Seats for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The ONMS is seeking applications for the following vacant seats on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Citizen at Large—Middle Keys (alternate), Diving—Upper Keys (member), Fishing—Recreational (alternate), and Tourism—Upper Keys (alternate). Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary.

Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve 3-year terms, pursuant to the council’s Charter. Applications are due by March 23, 2009.

DATES: Applications are due by March 23, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Lilli Ferguson, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, 33 East Quay Rd., Key West, FL 33040. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lilli Ferguson, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, 33 East Quay Rd., Key West, FL 33040; (305) 292–0311 x245; Lilli.Ferguson@noaa.gov.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Tracking Labels for Children’s Products Under Section 103 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act; Notice of Inquiry; Request for Comments and Information

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry.

SUMMARY: The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 requires that, effective August 14, 2009, the manufacturer of a children’s product must place permanent distinguishing marks on the product and its packaging that provides certain identifying information. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (“Commission”) is requesting comments and information about implementation of this program.

DATES: Written comments must be received by April 27, 2009.
This same section provides that, where traceability labels are required by rule under CPSA section 14(c) and a covered product is privately labeled, the product must carry a code mark permitting the seller to identify the manufacturer upon a purchaser’s request.

The Commission is aware of the potential public interest in implementing a tracking label approach in close consultation with other national and regional jurisdictions. To the extent that a uniform approach can be developed, consumers may be better informed in the event of a recall. Manufacturers also may have greater certainty in identifying affected products and production management costs may be reduced, with possible pricing benefits to consumers. The Commission intends to draw from responses to this request for comments in its discussions on tracking label policy with other national and regional regulators.

B. Request for Comments

Given the spectrum of options available to CPSC to implement the tracking labeling requirement for children’s products, the staff is interested in comments and information regarding:

1. The conditions and circumstances that should be considered in determining whether it is “practicable” to have tracking labels on children’s products and the extent to which different factors apply to including labels on packaging.

2. How permitting manufacturers and private labelers to comply with labeling requirements with or without standardized nomenclature, appearance, and arrangement of information would affect:
   a. Manufacturers’ ability to ascertain the location and date of production of the product; and
   b. Other business considerations relevant to tracking label policy.

3. How consumers’ ability to identify recalled items would be affected by permitting manufacturers and private labelers to comply with labeling requirements with or without standardized nomenclature, appearance, and arrangement of information.

4. How, and to what extent, the tracking information should be presented with some information in English or other languages, or whether presentation should be without the use of language (e.g., by alpha-numeric code with a reference key available to the public).

5. Whether there would be a substantial benefit to consumers if products were to contain tracking information in electronically readable form (to include optical data and other forms requiring supplemental technology), and if so, in which cases this would be most beneficial and in which electronic form.

6. In cases where the product is privately labeled, by what means the manufacturer information should be made available by the seller to a consumer upon request, e.g.: Electronically via Internet, or toll-free number, or at point of sale.

7. The amount of lead time needed to comply with marking requirements if the format is prescribed.

8. Whether successful models for adequate tracking labels already exist in other jurisdictions.

A study on possible product labeling protocols “Feasibility Study: Post-manufacturing Traceability System between the PRC and the EU, November 2008” may be found at the following Web site: http://www.euchinawto.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=258&Itemid=1 (referenced here with permission). The Commission does not necessarily endorse or support any views or conclusions in that study. However, the document provides useful background for discussion of traceability labeling policies.

The Commission understands that other jurisdictions plan to request comments on tracking label policy in the near future. On its Web site http://www.cpsc.gov, CPSC will provide links to Internet notices by other jurisdictions as staff becomes aware of them.


Todd Stevenson,
Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Air University Board of Visitors Meeting

ACTION: Notice of meeting of the Air University Board of Visitors.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102–3.150, the Department of Defense announces that the Air University Board of Visitors’ meeting will take place on Monday, April 19th,