

**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION****Announcement of Public Workshop on Office and Cleaning Supply Fraud****AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.**ACTION:** Announcement of public workshop on office and cleaning supply fraud.**SUMMARY:** The Federal Trade Commission will hold a public workshop on November 8, 2001, to explore the marketing practices of the office and cleaning supply industry.

**Dates and Location:** The workshop will be held on November 8, 2001, at the Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no fee to attend the workshop. Advance registration is requested but not required. In addition, written statements responding to the workshop topics below and other issues would be appreciated in advance. You may register in advance via email to [jwright@ftc.gov](mailto:jwright@ftc.gov) or by calling Janet Wright at (202) 326-2832.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Elena Paoli, Attorney, Bureau of Consumer Protection; phone (202) 326-2974; fax (202) 326-2558; email [epaoli@ftc.gov](mailto:epaoli@ftc.gov); 601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Room S-4623, Washington, DC 20580.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background and Workshop Goals**

As part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to combat office and cleaning supply fraud, the Commission requests information from and the participation of interested parties. Since the Telemarketing Sales Rule's issuance in December 1995,<sup>1</sup> the Commission has filed more than 20 lawsuits against office and cleaning supply telemarketing operations. Almost all of the victims in these cases have been small businesses and non-profit organizations.<sup>2</sup> Consumer complaint data shows that office supply fraud is not abating.

The Commission is interested in exploring current marketing practices in the office and cleaning supply industry and how the sales practices of office and cleaning supply telemarketers have changed since the Rule's inception. Information about how businesses and organizations purchase office supplies would also be helpful. The goal of the upcoming workshop is to educate the Commission and the public about current business practices of office

supply telemarketers and what further law enforcement or education efforts could help eradicate fraud in this industry.

**Topics To Be Addressed**

- How the frauds work.
- Federal and state law enforcement initiatives.
- Business education efforts.
- Principal sales methods of industry members.
- Role of online sales and faxes.
- The use of fulfillment houses.
- Principal buying patterns of businesses and organizations.
- Impact of Telemarketing Sales Rule on industry marketing methods.
- Current frauds.
- Additional ways to educate businesses.
- Increasing protections for business through the TSR, including additional mandatory disclosures and requiring invoices to accompany products.

An agenda and additional information will be posted on the Commission's web site, [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov), in advance of the workshop.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**[60Day-02-02]**

**Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations**

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 639-7090.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Send comments to Anne O'Connor, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Proposed Project:** U.S. Action Plan for Laboratory Containment of Wild Polio viruses: A Pilot Study—New—National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Global polio eradication is anticipated within the next few years. The only sources of wild polio virus will be in biomedical laboratories. Prevention of inadvertent transmission of polio viruses from the laboratory to the community is crucial.

The first step toward prevention is a national survey of all biomedical laboratories. The survey will alert laboratories to the impending eradication of polio, encourage the disposition of all unneeded wild polio virus infectious and potentially infectious materials, and establish a national inventory of laboratories retaining such materials. Laboratories on the inventory will be kept informed of polio eradication progress and notified, when necessary, to implement bio-safety requirements appropriate for the risk of working with such materials.

An estimated 15,000 biomedical laboratories, in six categories of institutions: academic, federal government, hospital, industry, private, and state and local government facilities, will be included in the final survey. We propose conducting pilot studies in 525 biomedical laboratories representing the above six categories. Specific survey strategies for each category will be refined through these pilot surveys. Three types of biomedical laboratories within each institutional category will be targeted by the pilot survey: those most likely to possess wild polio virus materials; those least likely to possess wild polio virus materials; and those that may possess wild polio virus materials.

The survey instruments will ask laboratories to indicate whether or not they possess wild polio virus infectious and/or potentially infectious materials. If such materials are present, respondents are asked to indicate the types of materials and estimated numbers retained. Survey instruments will be available on the NVPO web page, and institutions will be

<sup>1</sup> 16 CFR part 310.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Testimony, Senate Small Business Committee, March 27, 2000, p. 1.