analysis of impacts or take estimate under the initial IHA.

We refer to the documents related to the previously issued IHA, which include the **Federal Register** notice of the issuance of the initial 2021 IHA for the COK's construction work (86 FR 12411; March 3, 2021), the COK's application, the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHA (85 FR 71612; November 11, 2021), and all associated references and documents.

Determinations

The COK will conduct activities as analyzed in the initial 2021 IHA. As described above, the number of authorized takes of the same species and stocks of marine mammals are identical to the numbers that were found to meet the negligible impact and small numbers standards and authorized under the initial IHA and no new information has emerged that would change those findings. The reissued 2023 IHA includes identical required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures as the initial IHA, and there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) the required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) the Navy's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216–6A, NMFS must review our proposed action with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment.

Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Because the only change to the IHA are effective dates, the CE on record for issuance of the initial IHA applies to this action.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally, in this case with the Alaska Regional Office, whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

The effects of this proposed Federal action were adequately analyzed in NMFS' Biological Opinion for the Berth III New Mooring Dolphins Project, dated February 11, 2021, which concluded that the take NMFS proposed to authorize through this IHA would not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or destroy or adversely modify any designated critical habitat.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to the COK for in-water construction activities associated with the specified activity from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. All previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements from the initial 2021 IHA are incorporated.

Dated: December 5, 2022.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2022–26723 Filed 12–7–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[Docket No. CPSC–2010–0041]

Collection of Information; Proposed Extension of Approval; Comment Request—Publicly Available Consumer Product Safety Information Database

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) requests comments on a proposed extension of approval of a collection of information for the Publicly Available Consumer Product Safety Information Database. The CPSC will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting an extension of approval of this collection of information from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the collection of information by February 6, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CPSC–2010–0041, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Submit electronic comments to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at: *https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments. CPSC typically does not accept comments submitted by electronic mail (email), except as described below. CPSC encourages you to submit electronic comments by using the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier/Confidential Written Submissions: Submit comments by mail, hand delivery, or courier to: Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone: (301) 504–7479. If you wish to submit confidential business information, trade secret information, or other sensitive or protected information that you do not want to be available to the public, you may submit such comments by mail, hand delivery, or courier, or you may email them to: *cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.*

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number. CPSC may post all comments without change, including any personal identifiers, contact information, or other personal information provided, to: *https://www.regulations.gov.* Do not submit through this website: confidential business information, trade secret information, or other sensitive or protected information that you do not want to be available to the public. If you wish to submit such information, please submit it according to the instructions for mail/hand delivery/courier/confidential written submissions.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to: *https://www.regulations.gov,* and insert the docket number, CPSC–2010–0041, into the ''Search'' box, and follow the prompts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, or a copy of the supporting statement, contact: Cynthia

Gillham, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; (301) 504–7791, or by email to: *cgillham@cpsc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Section 212 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA) added section 6A to the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), which requires the CPSC to establish and maintain a publicly available, searchable database (Database) on the safety of consumer products and other products or substances regulated by the CPSC. Among other things, section 6A of the CPSA requires the CPSC to collect reports of harm from the public for potential publication in the publicly available Database, and to collect and publish comments from manufacturers about reports of harm.

In a proposed rule published on May 24, 2010 (75 FR 29156), the CPSC announced that a proposed collection of information in conjunction with the Database, called the Publicly Available Consumer Product Safety Information Database, had been submitted to OMB for review and clearance under 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520. The CPSC issued a final rule on the Database on December 9, 2010 (75 FR 76832). The final rule interprets various statutory requirements in section 6A of the CPSA pertaining to the information to be included in the Database. The final rule also establishes provisions regarding submitting reports of harm; providing notice of reports of harm to manufacturers; publishing reports of harm and manufacturer comments in the Database; and dealing with confidential and materially inaccurate information.

OMB approved the collection of information for the Database under control number 3041–0146. OMB's most recent extension of approval, issued on March 31, 2020, will expire on March 31, 2023. Accordingly, the CPSC now proposes to request an extension of approval of this collection of information.

B. Information Collected Through the Database

The primary purpose of this information collection is to populate the publicly searchable Database of consumer product safety information mandated by section 6A of the CPSA. The Database information collection has four components: reports of harm, manufacturer comments, branding information, and the Small Batch Manufacturer Registry (SBMR).

Reports of Harm: Reports of harm communicate information regarding an injury, illness, or death, or any risk (as determined by CPSC) of injury, illness, or death, relating to the use of a consumer product or other product or substance regulated by the CPSC. Reports can be submitted to the CPSC by consumers; local, state, or federal government agencies; healthcare professionals; child service providers; public safety entities; and others. Reports may be submitted via the CPSC website (*www.SaferProducts.gov*), by telephone via a CPSC call center, or by email, fax, or mail using the incident report form (available for download or printing via the CPSC website). Reports may also originate as a free-form letter or email. Submitters must consent to including their report of harm in the publicly searchable Database.

Manufacturer Comments: Pursuant to the CPSIA, CPSC transmits a report of harm to the manufacturer or private labeler identified in the report, and the manufacturer or private labeler may then submit a comment to CPSC related to the report of harm (hereinafter ''manufacturer comment''). Manufacturer comments may be submitted through the business portal, by email, mail, or fax. The business portal is a feature of the Database that allows manufacturers and private labelers who register on the business portal to receive reports of harm and comment on such reports through the business portal. Use of the business portal expedites the receipt of reports of harm and business response times.

A manufacturer or private labeler may request that the CPSC designate information in a report of harm as confidential. Such a request may be made using the business portal, by email, by mail, or by fax. Additionally, any person or entity reviewing a report of harm or comment from a manufacturer or private labeler, either before or after publication in the Database, may request that the report or comment, or portions of the report or comment, be excluded from the Database because it contains materially inaccurate information. Such a request may be made by manufacturers or private labelers using the business portal, by email, mail or fax, and may be submitted by anyone else by email, mail, or fax.

Branding Information: Using the business portal, registered businesses may voluntarily submit branding information to assist CPSC in correctly and timely routing to them reports of harm involving their products. Brand names may be licensed to another entity for use in labeling consumer products manufactured by that entity. CPSC's understanding of licensing arrangements for consumer products helps to ensure that the correct manufacturer or private labeler is timely notified regarding a report of harm.

Small Batch Manufacturers Registry: The business portal also contains the SBMR, which is the online mechanism by which ''small batch manufacturers'' (as defined in the CPSA) can identify themselves to obtain relief from certain third-party testing requirements for children's products. To register as a small batch manufacturer, a business must attest that the company's income level, and the number of units of the covered product manufactured for which relief is sought, both fall within the statutory limits to receive relief from third party testing.

C. Estimated Burden

1. Estimated Annual Burden for Respondents

We estimate the burden of this collection of information as follows:

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN FOR REPORTS OF HARM

Collection type	Number of respondents	Response frequency [1]	Total annual responses	Minutes per response	Total burden, in hours [2]
Reports of Harm—submitted through website	4,498	1.45	6,522	12	1,304
Reports of Harm—submitted by phone	1,032	1.33	1,373	10	229
Reports of Harm—submitted by mail, email, fax	296	3.71	1,098	20	366

[1] Frequency of responses is calculated by dividing the number of responses by the number of respondents.

[2] Numbers have been rounded.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN FOR REPORTS OF HARM—Continued

Collection type	Number of respondents	Response frequency [1]	Total annual responses	Minutes per response	Total burden, in hours [2]
Total	5,826		8,993		1,899

TABLE 2—ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN FOR MANUFACTURER SUBMISSIONS

Collection type	Number of respondents	Response frequency [1]	Total annual responses	Minutes per response	Total burden, in hours [2]
Manufacturer Comments—submitted through website	437	4.53	1,980	117	3,861
Manufacturer Comments—submitted by mail, email, fax	115	1.44	166	147	407
Requests to Treat Information as Confidential—submitted through website	1	1.00	1	42	1
Requests to Treat Information as Confidential—submitted by mail, email, fax	0	N/A	0	72	0
Requests to Treat Information as Materially Inaccurate—submitted through website	97	1.46	142	165	391
Requests to Treat Information as Materially Inaccurate—submitted by mail, email, fax	22	1.23	27	195	88
Voluntary Brand Identification	513	1.00	513	10	86
Small Batch Manufacturer Identification	1,747	1.00	1,747	10	291
Total	2,932		4,576		5,125

Based on the data set forth in Tables 1 and 2 above, the annual reporting cost is estimated to be $443,089. This estimate is based on the sum of two estimated total figures for reports of harm and manufacturer or private labeler submissions. The estimated number of respondents and responses are based on the actual responses received in FY 2022. We assume that the number of responses and respondents will be similar in future years.

Reports of Harm: Table 1 sets forth the data used to estimate the burden associated with submitting reports of harm. Since the previous renewal of the collection, the number of annual reports of harm submitted by mail, email or fax decreased from 15,314 to 1,098; reports of harm submitted by phone decreased from 1,418 to 1,373; and reports of harm submitted through the website increased from 6,023 to 6,522.

We had previously estimated the time associated with the electronic and telephone submission of reports of harm at 12 and 10 minutes, respectively; and because we have had no indication that these estimates are not appropriate or accurate, we used those figures for present purposes as well. We estimate that the time associated with a paper or PDF form would be 20 minutes, on average.

To estimate the costs for submitting reports of harm, we multiplied the estimated total burden hours associated with reports of harm (1,304 hours + 229 hours + 366 hours = 1,899 hours) by an estimated total compensation for all workers in private industry of $38.61 per hour,[3] which results in an estimated cost of $73,320 (1,899 hours × $38.61 per hour = $73,320 FY22).

Manufacturer Submissions: Tables 2 and 3 set forth the data used to estimate the burden associated with manufacturer and private labeler submissions to the Database. We observed that a large percentage of the general comments come from a few businesses, and we assumed that the experience of a business that submits many comments each year would be different from one that submits only a few. Accordingly, previously, we divided all responding businesses into three groups based on the number of general comments submitted, and then we selected several businesses to contact from each group. The first group contacted consisted of businesses that submitted 50 or more comments, accounting for 31 percent of all general comments received. The second group contacted included businesses that submitted 6 to 49 comments, accounting for 39 percent of all general comments received. The last group contacted included businesses that submitted no more than 5 comments, accounting for 30 percent of all general comments received. We asked each company how long it typically takes to research, compose, and enter a comment or a claim of materially inaccurate information.

To estimate the burden associated with submitting a general comment regarding a report of harm through the business portal, we averaged the burden provided by each company within each group, and then we calculated a weighted average from the three groups, weighting each group by the proportion of comments received from that group. We found that the average time to submit a general comment regarding a report of harm is 117 minutes, based on the data in Table 3 (((15 minutes + 45 minutes + 30 minutes + 15 minutes)/4 companies)*.31 + ((105 minutes + 45 minutes + 150 minutes + 15 minutes)/4 companies)*.39 + ((240 minutes + 60 minutes + 480 minutes)/3 companies)*.30 = 117 minutes).

[3] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table 4 of the Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (ECEC), Private Industry workers, by occupational group, Mar 2022 (data extracted on 10/3/2022 from: *https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/ecec_06162022.pdf*.

TABLE 3—ESTIMATED BURDEN TO ENTER A GENERAL COMMENT IN THE DATABASE

Group	Company	General comments
Group 1 (≤50 comments)	Company A	15 minutes.
	Company B	45 minutes.
	Company C	30 minutes.
	Company D	15 minutes.
Group 2 (6–49 comments)	Company A	105 minutes.
	Company B	45 minutes.
	Company C	150 minutes.
	Company D	15 minutes.
Group 3 (≤5 comments)	Company A	240 minutes.
	Company B	60 minutes.
	Company C	480 minutes.

Registered businesses generally submit comments through the CPSC website. Unregistered businesses submit comments by mail, email, or fax. We estimate that submitting comments via mail, email, or fax takes a little longer because often, we must ask businesses to amend their submissions to include the required certifications. Thus, we estimated that, on average, comments submitted by mail, email, or fax take 30 minutes longer than comments submitted through the CPSC website (117 minutes + 30 minutes = 147 minutes).

The submission of a claim of materially inaccurate information is a relatively rare event for all respondents, so we averaged all responses together. Eight of the businesses contacted had submitted claims of materially inaccurate information. We found that the average time to submit a claim that a report of harm contains a material inaccuracy is 165 minutes ((30 minutes + 90 minutes + 45 minutes + 90 minutes + 60 minutes + 660 minutes + 45 minutes + 300 minutes)/8 companies = 165 minutes).

Registered businesses generally submit claims of materially inaccurate information through the business portal. Unregistered businesses submit such claims by mail, email, or fax. We estimate that submitting claims via mail, email, or fax takes a little longer because we often must ask businesses to amend their submission to include the required certifications. Thus, we estimate that, on average, claims submitted by mail, email, or fax take 30 minutes longer than those submitted through the CPSC website (165 minutes + 30 minutes = 195 minutes).

The submission of a claim of confidential information is another relatively rare event for all respondents, so we averaged all responses together. Five of the businesses contacted had submitted claims of confidential information. We found that the average time to submit a claim that a report of harm contains confidential information through the CPSC website is 42 minutes ((45 minutes + 15 minutes + 60 minutes + 30 minutes + 60 minutes)/5 companies = 42 minutes).

Registered businesses generally submit confidential information claims through the business portal. Unregistered businesses submit confidential information claims by mail, email, or fax. We estimate that submitting claims by mail, email, or fax takes a little longer because often, we must ask businesses to amend their submission to include the required certifications. Thus, we estimate that a confidential information claim submitted by mail, email, or fax would take 30 minutes longer than those submitted through the CPSC website (42 minutes + 30 minutes = 72 minutes).

For voluntary brand identification, we estimate that a response would take 10 minutes, on average. Most responses consist only of the brand name and a product description. In many cases, a business will submit multiple entries in a brief period of time, and we can see from the date and time stamps on these records that an entry often takes less than 2 minutes. CPSC staff enters the same data in a similar form, based on our own research, and that experience was also factored into our estimate.

For small batch manufacturer identification, we estimate that a response would take 10 minutes, on average. The form consists of three check boxes and the information should be readily accessible to the respondent.

The responses summarized in Table 2 are generally submitted by manufacturers. To avoid underestimating the cost associated with the collection of this data, we assigned the higher hourly wage associated with a manager or professional in goods-producing industries to these tasks. To estimate the cost of manufacturer submissions, we multiplied the estimated total burden hours in Table 2 (5,125 hours), by an estimated total compensation for a manager or professional in goods-producing industries of $72.15 per hour,[4] which results in an estimated cost of $ 369,769 (5,125 hours × $72.15 per hour = $369,769).

Therefore, the total estimated annual cost to respondents is $443,089 ($73,320 burden for reports of harm + $369,769 burden for manufacturer submissions = $443,089).

2. Estimated Annual Burden on Government

We estimate the annualized cost to the CPSC to be $981,516. This figure is based on the costs for four categories of work for the Database: Reports of Harm, Materially Inaccurate Information Claims, Manufacturer Comments, and Small Batch Identification. Each category is described below. No government cost is associated with firms' voluntary brand identification because this information is entered directly into the Database by the manufacturer with no processing required by the government. The information assists the government in directing reports of harm to the correct manufacturer. Because we only have one request to treat information as confidential in FY 2022, we included the government's time to process this claim with the claims of materially inaccurate information.

Reports of Harm: The Reports of Harm category includes many different tasks. Some costs related to this category are from two data entry contracts. Tasks related to these contracts include clerical coding of the report, such as identifying the type of consumer product reported and the appropriate associated hazard, as well as performing quality control on the data in the report. Contractor A spends an estimated 4,940

[4] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table 4 of the Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (ECEC), Private Industry workers, by occupational group, Mar 2022 (data extracted on 8/2/2022 from: *https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.t04.htm.*

hours per year performing these tasks. With an hourly rate of $34.53 for contractor services, the annual cost to the government of contract A is $170,578.

The Reports of Harm category also includes sending consent requests for reports when necessary, processing that consent when received, determining whether a product is out of CPSC's jurisdiction, and confirming that pictures and attachments do not have any personally identifiable information. The Reports of Harm category also entails notifying manufacturers or private labelers when one of their products is reported, completing a risk of harm determination form for every report eligible for publication, referring some reports to a subject matter expert within the CPSC for a determination whether the reports meet the requirement of having a risk of harm, and determining whether a report meets all the statutory and regulatory requirements for publication. Detailed costs are:

TABLE 4—ESTIMATED COSTS FOR REPORTS OF HARM TASK

Grade level	Number of hours (annual)	Total compensation per hour	Total annual cost
Contract A	4,940	$34.53	$170,578
7	2,912	40.44	117,761
9	1,456	49.47	72,028
12	3,328	71.74	238,751
13	1,248	85.31	106,467
14	832	100.81	83,874
Total	14,716	.....	789,459

Materially Inaccurate Information (MII) Claims: The MII claims category includes reviewing and responding to claims, participating in meetings where the claims are discussed, and completing a risk of harm determination on reports when a company alleges that a report does not describe a risk of harm.

TABLE 5—ESTIMATED COSTS FOR MII CLAIMS TASK

Grade level	Number of hours (Annual)	Total compensation per hour	Total annual cost
12	312	$71.74	$22,383
13	208	85.31	17,744
14	312	100.81	31,453
15	21	118.57	2,490
SES	42	132.43	5,562
Total	895	.....	79,632

Manufacturer Comments: The Comments category includes reviewing and accepting or rejecting comments.

TABLE 6—ESTIMATED COSTS FOR MANUFACTURER COMMENTS TASK

Grade level	Number of hours (Annual)	Total compensation per hour	Total annual cost
12	62	$71.74	$4,448
13	104	85.31	8,872
Total	166	.....	13,320

Small Batch Manufacturer Identification: The Small Batch Manufacturer Identification category includes time spent posting the list of small batch registrations, as well as answering companies' questions on registering as a Small Batch Manufacturer and the implications of small batch registration.

TABLE 7—ESTIMATED COSTS FOR SMALL BATCH TASK

Grade level	Number of hours (annual)	Total compensation per hour	Total annual cost
15	642	$118.57	$76,122

TABLE 7—ESTIMATED COSTS FOR SMALL BATCH TASK—Continued

Grade level	Number of hours (annual)	Total compensation per hour	Total annual cost
Total	642		76,122

We estimate the annualized cost to the CPSC of $958,533, by adding the four categories of work related to the Database summarized in Tables 4 through 7 (Reports of Harm ($789,459) + MII Claims ($79,632) + Manufacturer Comments ($13,320) + Small Batch Identification ($76,122) = $958,533).

This information collection renewal request is based on an estimated 7,024 burden hours per year for the Database, which represents a decrease of 6,319 hours since this collection of information was last approved by OMB in 2019. Total burden from reports of harm decreased by 4,647 hours (from 6,546 to 1,899), and total burden for manufacturer's submission decreased by 1,672 hours, from 6,797 to 5,125. Declines in total burden hours are attributed to a decline in the number of reports of harm submitted by mail, email, and fax. However, CPSC staff discovered that the 2019 update for this control number contained an error that increased the estimated burden, by inadvertently including a large number of death certificates collected by CPSC staff in the reports of harm submitted by mail, email, and fax. In addition, for this update there was a decrease in small batch manufacturer activity.

D. Request for Comments

The CPSC solicits written comments from all interested persons about the proposed collection of information. The CPSC specifically solicits information relevant to the following topics:

- Whether the collection of information described above is necessary for the proper performance of the CPSC's functions, including whether the information would have practical utility.
- Whether the estimated burden of the proposed collection of information is accurate.
- Whether the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected could be enhanced.
- Whether the burden imposed by the collection of information could be minimized by using automated, electronic, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

Alberta E. Mills,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 2022–26643 Filed 12–7–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Committee Renewal of Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committees—Department of Defense Wage Committee

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Committee renewal of federal advisory committee.

SUMMARY: The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that it is renewing the Department of Defense Wage Committee (''the DoD Wage Committee'').

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Freeman, Advisory Committee Management Officer for the Department of Defense, 703–697–1142.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoD Wage Committee is being renewed, pursuant to 5 CFR 532.227(a), as directed by 5 U.S.C. 5343(c), and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C., Appendix) and 41 CFR 102–3.50(c), and as part of the renewal process, the DoD is filing a new DoD Wage Committee charter along with its membership balance plan. The charter and contact information for the DoD Wage Committee's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) are found at *https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/apex/FACAPublicAgencyNavigation*.

The DoD Wage Committee provides independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the conduct of wage surveys and the establishment of wage schedules for all appropriated fund and non-appropriated fund wage areas. The DoD Wage Committee, as directed by 5 CFR 532.209 and 532.227 and the Office of Personnel Management Operating Manual, Federal Wage System, Appropriated and Non-Appropriated Funds, S3–2 Agency Level, provides the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense (''the DoD Appointing Authority''), through the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), independent advice and recommendations on all matters relating to the conduct of wage surveys and the establishment of wage schedules for all appropriated fund and non-appropriated fund wage areas of blue-collar employees within the Federal Wage System.

The DoD Wage Committee shall: (a) consider and makes recommendations to the DoD on any matter involved in developing specifications for a wage survey on which the DoD proposes not to accept the recommendations of a local wage survey committee and any matters on which a minority report has been filed; (b) consider the survey data, upon completion of a wage survey, of the local wage survey committee's report and recommendations, and the statistical analyses and proposed pay schedules derived from them, as well as any other data or recommendations pertinent to the survey, and recommends wage schedules to the pay-fixing authority; and (c) have a majority of the DoD Wage Committee to constitute a decision and recommendation of the DoD Wage Committee, but a member of the minority may file a report with the DoD Wage Committee's recommendations. All DoD Wage Committee work will be in response to written terms of reference approved by the DoD Appointing Authority or the USD(P&R), unless otherwise provided by in statute or Presidential directive.

The DoD Wage Committee; pursuant to 5 CFR 532.227(b), shall consist of five members, with the chairperson and two members designated by the head of the DoD. Of the remaining two members, pursuant to 5 CFR 532.227(b)(1), one member shall be designated by each of the two labor organizations having the largest number of wage employees covered by exclusive recognition in the DoD. The other two members shall have management backgrounds.

The appointment of DoD Wage Committee members will be approved by the DoD Appointing Authority, for a term of service of one-to-two years, with