

section of the FMCSRs—§ 391.21(b) reads: “The application for employment shall be made on a form furnished by the motor carrier. Each application form must be completed by the applicant, must be signed by him, and must contain the following information * * *.”

As one part of its goal to utilize computers in its everyday business activities, in 2006 CME contracted with a vendor to monitor the Federal driver-recordkeeping requirements with a service that helps carriers centralize and manage driver records, and standardizes company-wide transportation safety and compliance programs and resulting data. By providing proactive real-time alerts of important driver information, this system lets CME know at a glance what its compliance level is at any given time, and what work needs to be done to maintain and enhance its compliance efforts.

According to CME, one of the time-consuming drawbacks to the overall process of hiring a driver is the requirement in 49 CFR 391.21(b) of having the application signed by the individual driver applicant. CME's computer system is sophisticated and secure, and applicants who submit an application online do so by entering a user name and password that can only be known to the applicant. CME wishes to make this online application process less complicated by allowing driver-applicants to use an electronic signature, rather than having the application completed online, approved, printed, signed by the driver applicant, and then rescanned into the system.

Due to the savings involved in not maintaining large areas devoted to the storage of paper records, CME has strived to have substantially all of its passenger-service records, including its traffic data, digitized in a manner that minimizes human intervention. CME states that the potential utilization of electronic signatures would substantially improve the level of service that it can provide the public as it reduces the margin of error in its operations, which culminates in considerable cost savings to CME.

CME requests that it be granted an exemption for a period of two years from the requirement to maintain driver employment applications bearing original signatures. A copy of CME's exemption application is in the docket identified at the beginning of this notice.

Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(4) and 31316(e), FMCSA

requests public comment on CME's application for an exemption. The Agency will consider all comments received by close of business on January 30, 2008. Comments will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The Agency will file comments received after the comment closing date in the public docket, and will consider them to the extent practicable. In addition to late comments, FMCSA will also continue to file, in the public docket, relevant information that becomes available after the comment closing date. Interested persons should monitor the public docket for new material.

Issued on: December 19, 2007.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Development.

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BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of OMB Approvals.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b), this notice announces that new information collection requirement (ICR) listed below has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This new ICR pertains to 49 CFR Part 262. Additionally, FRA hereby announces that other ICRs listed below have been re-approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These ICRs pertain to Parts 215, 216, 219, 223, and 239. The OMB approval numbers, titles, and expiration dates are included herein under supplementary information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590 (*telephone:* (202) 493-6292), or Gina Christodoulou, Office of Support Systems, RAD-43, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (*telephone:* (202) 493-6139). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

(PRA), Public Law No. 104-13, § 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR Part 1320, require Federal agencies to display OMB control numbers and inform respondents of their legal significance once OMB approval is obtained. The following new FRA information collections were approved in the last year: (1) OMB No. 2130-0572, Causal Analysis and Countermeasures to Reduce Rail-related Suicides (Forms FRA F 6180.125A and FRA F 6180.125B), and (2) OMB No. 2130-0573, Implementation of Program for Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects (49 CFR 262). The expiration date for these two new collections of information is November 30, 2010.

The following information collections were re-approved: (1) OMB No. 2130-0504, Special Notice for Repairs (49 CFR part 216) (Forms FRA F 6180.8 and FRA 6180.8A). The new expiration date for this information collection is August 31, 2010. (2) OMB No. 2130-0511, Designation of Qualified Persons (49 CFR 215). The new expiration date for this information collection is May 31, 2010. (3) OMB No. 2130-0526, Control of Alcohol and Drug Use in Railroad Operations (49 CFR 219) (Forms FRA F 6180.73 and FRA F 6180.74). The new expiration date for this information collection is March 31, 2010. (4) OMB No. 2130-0545, Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness (49 CFR 223 and 239). The new expiration date for this information collection is May 31, 2010. (5) OMB No. 2130-0555, FRFB Employees Who Perform Train or Dispatching Service in the United States (49 CFR 219). The new expiration date for this information collection is August 31, 2010.

Persons affected by the above referenced information collections are not required to respond to any collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. These approvals by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) certify that FRA has complied with the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and with 5 CFR 1320.5(b) by informing the public about OMB's approval of the information collection requirements of the above cited forms and regulations.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 21, 2007.

D.J. Stadtler,

*Director, Office of Financial Management,
Federal Railroad Administration.*

[FR Doc. E7-25334 Filed 12-28-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

Prompt Payment Interest Rate; Contract Disputes Act

AGENCY: Bureau of the Public Debt,
Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: For the period beginning January 1, 2008, and ending on June 30, 2008, the prompt payment interest rate and the contract disputes interest rate is 4-¾ per centum per annum.

ADDRESSES: Comments or inquiries may be mailed to Carol Brooks, Accountant, Borrowings Accounting Team, Division of Accounting Operations, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328. A copy of this Notice is available at <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov>.

DATES: Effective January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Veronica Lowther, Acting Director, Division of Accounting Operations, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26106-1328, (304) 480-5161; Carol Brooks, Accountant, Borrowings Accounting Team, Division of Accounting Operations, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26106-1328, (304) 480-5167; Amy Mertz Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (202) 504-3715; or Brenda L. Hoffman, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, (202) 504-3706.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An agency acquiring property or services from a business concern, but failing to pay for each complete delivered item of property or service by the required payment date, must pay the business concern an interest penalty, commonly known as the Prompt Payment Interest Penalty. 31 U.S.C. 3902(a). The applicable interest rate for determining this penalty is the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury under § 12 of the Contract Disputes Act (codified at 41 U.S.C. 611) and in effect at the time the agency accrues the obligation to pay this late payment interest penalty. 31 U.S.C. 3902(a). Agencies must pay the interest penalty calculated with the

Prompt Payment Interest Rate, “for the period beginning on the day after the required payment date and ending on the date on which the payment is made.” 31 U.S.C. 3902(b). If an interest penalty is owed to a business concern because of a late payment, the penalty must be paid regardless of whether the business concern requested payment of the penalty.

An agency also must pay interest on claims found due to contractors that are submitted to procuring agencies for payment, payable for the time period between when the contracting officer receives the claim and when the procuring agency pays the claim. Contract Disputes Act § 12; 41 U.S.C. 611.

The Secretary is required to establish an interest rate for both of these purposes. 31 U.S.C. 3902(a); 41 U.S.C. 611. Therefore, notice is given that the Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the rate of interest for purposes of both Prompt Payment and the Contract Disputes Act, applicable for the period beginning January 1, 2008, and ending on June 30, 2008, is 4-¾ per centum per annum.

Kenneth E. Carfine,

Fiscal Assistant Secretary

[FR Doc. 07-6197 Filed 12-28-08; 8:45 am]

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