

Department to determine whether the conditions of the exemption have been met. The class exemption also requires that those records be made available to certain persons on request. Without this recordkeeping requirement, the Department would be unable to effectively enforce the terms of the exemption and ensure user compliance.

*Agency:* Employee Benefits Security Administration.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change of currently approved collection.

*Title:* Notice Requirements of the Health Care Continuation Coverage Provisions.

*OMB Number:* 1210-0123.

*Type of Response:* Third party disclosure.

*Affected Public:* Private Sector: Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 593,000.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 15,237,957.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 0.

*Estimated Total Annualized Capital/startup costs:* \$0.

*Estimated Total Annual Costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services):* \$18,387,739.

*Description:* The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1984 (COBRA) provides that under certain circumstances participants and beneficiaries of group health plans that satisfy the definition of "qualified beneficiaries" under COBRA may elect to continue group health coverage temporarily following events known as "qualifying events" that would otherwise result in loss of coverage. COBRA provides that the Secretary of Labor (the Secretary) has the authority under section 608 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to carry out the provisions of Part 6 of title I of ERISA. The Conference Report that accompanied COBRA authorized the Secretary to issue regulations implementing the notice and disclosure requirements of COBRA.

The Department has implemented the Notice Requirements of Section 606 of ERISA (regulations) because the provision of timely and adequate notifications regarding COBRA rights and responsibilities is critical to a qualified beneficiary's ability to obtain

health continuation coverage. In addition, in the Department's view, regulatory guidance was necessary to establish clearer standards for administering and processing COBRA notices.

The provision of timely and adequate notifications is critical for the effective exercise of COBRA rights. As such, plan administrators, group health plan insurers, and other service providers to the healthcare industry have indicated to the Department that additional guidance on notification and disclosure under COBRA would be welcome. Failure on the part of a plan administrator to meet notice requirements might result in a qualified beneficiary's losing out on continuation coverage, assessment of fines on a plan administrator, or other adverse consequences.

Under the regulatory guidelines, plan administrators are required to distribute notices as follows: A general notice to be distributed to all participants in group health plans subject to COBRA; an employer notice that must be completed by the employer upon the occurrence of a qualifying event; a notice and election form to be sent to a participant upon the occurrence of a qualifying event that might cause the participant to lose group health coverage; an employee notice that may be completed by a qualified beneficiary upon the occurrence of certain qualifying events such as divorce or disability; and, two other notices, one of early termination and the other a notice of unavailability.

**Darrin A. King,**

*Acting Departmental Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Submission for OMB Review: Comment Request

June 22, 2007.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling Ira Mills on 202-693-4122 (this is not a toll-free number) or E-Mail: [Mills.Ira@dol.gov](mailto:Mills.Ira@dol.gov), or by accessing <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for U.S. Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, 202-395-7316 (this is not a toll free number), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0045.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Farms; and State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Type of Response:* Recordkeeping and Reporting.

*Number of Respondents:*

| Form                           | Total respondents      | Frequency      | Total responses        | Average time per response | Estimated total burden |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| BLS 9300 .....                 | 230,000                | Annually ..... | 230,000                | .4 hour .....             | 91,666 hours           |
| Pre-notification Package ..... | 175,000 out of 230,000 | Annually ..... | 175,000 out of 230,000 | 1.35 hours .....          | 235,833 hours          |
| <b>TOTALS</b> .....            | <b>230,000</b>         | .....          | <b>230,000</b>         | .....                     | <b>327,499 hours</b>   |

*Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs:* 0.

*Total Annual Costs:* 0 (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services).

*Description:* The goal of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, as stated in Section 2(b), is to assure, as far as possible, every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions. The BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses provides the Nation's primary indicator of the progress towards achieving this goal. The survey measures the overall rate of occurrence of work injuries and illnesses by industry. The industry classifications for which data are produced reflect the incorporation of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes beginning with reference year 2003. Until now, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses has been restricted to producing national estimates for the private sector only. Consequently, there have been no national estimates of workplace injuries and illnesses sustained by State and Local government workers, including those in such relatively high hazard and high profile occupations as police, firefighters, paramedics and other public health workers. To address this data gap, beginning with survey year 2008, the BLS will collect data from State and Local government agencies in all States to support both State and national estimates. The BLS will collect this data within the current budget. The BLS regards the collection of these data as a significant expansion in its overall coverage of the American workplace. BLS will send a letter explaining that the survey is voluntary for State and Local government agencies in States that do not require this collection of data. The number of extra sample units needed for State and Local government data is approximately 7,000. A Non-Substantive change request will be made for this increase for survey year 2008.

For the more serious injuries and illnesses, those with days away from work, the survey provides detailed information on the injured/ill worker (age, sex, race, industry, occupation, and length of service), the time in shift, and the circumstances of the injuries and illnesses classified by standardized codes (nature of the injury/illness, part of body affected, primary and secondary sources of the injury/illness, and the event or exposure that produced the injury/illness). Race data categories reflect the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommended categories for non-self-reported classification.

Optional information on the general job category is used to improve coding for non-descriptive job titles, such as "Customer Service Representative." A check-off for before/during/after work shift was included to identify the events that occurred before or after the work shift.

In the two decades prior to the OSHA recordkeeping changes in 2002, incidence rates for cases with days away from work decreased significantly while incidence rates for cases with only restricted work activity increased significantly. Since the BLS presently collects case and demographic data only for cases with days away from work, data are not obtained about a growing class of injury and illness cases. Beginning with the 2008 survey year, BLS will test collection of case and demographic data for injury and illness cases that require only days of job transfer or restriction. If the test(s) prove successful, BLS will implement this for as many States as the budget allows beginning with survey year 2009. BLS regards the collection of these cases with only job transfer or restriction as significant in its coverage of the American workforce.

**Ira L. Mills,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer/Team Leader.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Submission for OMB Review: Comment Request

June 27, 2007.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection requests (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35). A copy of each ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained from RegInfo.gov at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain> or by contacting Darrin King on 202-693-4129 (this is not a toll-free number)/e-mail: [king.darrin@dol.gov](mailto:king.darrin@dol.gov).

Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, Telephone: 202-395-7316/Fax: 202-395-6974 (these are not toll-free

numbers), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change of currently approved collection.

*Title:* Operations Under Water.

*OMB Number:* 1219-0020.

*Type of Response:* Reporting.

*Affected Public:* Private Sector: Business or other for-profit (Mines).

*Number of Respondents:* 30.

*Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 30.

*Average Response Time:* 5 hours.

*Estimated Annual Burden Hours:* 150.

*Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs:* \$450.

*Total Annual Costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services):* \$0.

*Description:* The information collection requirements contained in 30 CFR 75.1702 and 75.1702-1 help to ensure that miners are protected from the unnecessary hazards associated with the open flame of a cigarette lighter or match.

**Darrin A. King,**

*Acting Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. E7-12729 Filed 6-29-07; 8:45 am]

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