

Caponiti, Associate Administrator for National Security, Maritime Administration, welcomed the participants. Ms. Leclaire thanked the industry participants for their continued support. She remarked that she was pleased with the large number of attendees at the JPAG meeting. Ms. Leclaire noted that this JPAG was a follow-up to previous JPAG exercises including a table-top exercise conducted in July 2006. This exercise, she noted, was designed to go beyond the table-top exercise and test the industry's ability to respond to what might occur during a VISA activation. The results of the JPAG would be used to validate the VISA activation battlebook.

Mr. Caponiti remarked that the numerous assumptions in previous JPAG exercises did not always take into account events that could disrupt the industry's ability to meet DOD requirements. Assumptions in previous exercises were made to minimize disruption of commercial and military activities, which may not be the case in an actual VISA activation. He expressed a hope that this JPAG exercise would add realism to what actually could occur during VISA activation. Further, both Mr. Caponiti and Ms. Leclaire requested that participants document concerns and issues that would be required to improve the VISA activation process.

The purpose of the JPAG exercise was to review the processes of VISA activation using strategic sealift requirements to support two military contingencies simultaneously. The exercise also focused on the contractual processes required for VISA activation as well as the subsequent communications flow required to support the activation. The JPAG exercise was considered a success as industry participants were able to provide necessary capacity and resources to meet DOD requirements. However, the participants identified areas that needed clarity and further development to improve the VISA activation process. The Maritime Administration, U.S. Transportation Command and industry participants agreed to work on the issues identified in the JPAG exercise to assure that they are adequately addressed for the efficient coordination of VISA activation procedures and contractual processes.

The following VISA companies participated in the August 21–24, 2007 JPAG meeting: American President Lines, Ltd.; American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC; American Shipping Group; APL Marine Services, Ltd.; APL Maritime Ltd; Central Gulf Lines, Inc.; Farrell Lines Incorporated; Fidelio

Limited Partnership; Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC; Horizon Lines, LLC; Liberty Global Logistics, LLC; Liberty Shipping Group Limited Partnership; Maersk Line, Limited; Pasha Hawaii Transport Lines LLC; Patriot Shipping, LLC; Patriot Titan, LLC; Sealift Inc. and Waterman Steamship Corporation.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Mr. Taylor E. Jones II, Director, Office of Sealift Support, (202) 366–2323.

**Authority:** 49 CFR 1.66.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: September 13, 2007.

**Daron T. Threet,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910–81–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8879–EX

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8879–EX, IRS e-file Signature Authorization for Forms 720, 2290, and 8849.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before November 20, 2007 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Joe Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6129, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at (202) 622–6665, or at Internal Revenue Service, room 6129, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or through the Internet, at [Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov](mailto:Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title: IRS e-file Signature Authorization for Forms 720, 2290, and 8849.

**OMB Number:** 1545–2081.

**Form Number:** 8879–EX.

**Abstract:** The Form 8879–EX, IRS e-file Signature Authorization for Forms 720, 2290, and 8849, will be used in the Modernized e-File program. Form 8879–EX authorizes an a taxpayer and an electronic return originator (ERO) to use a personal identification number (PIN) to electronically sign an electronic excise tax return and, if applicable, authorize an electronic funds withdrawal.

**Current Actions:** There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a previously approved collection.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 10,000.

**Estimated Time Per Respondent:** 4 hours, 41 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:** 46,800.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**Request for Comments:** Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the 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 collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (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; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: September 10, 2007.

**R. Joseph Durbala,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4830–01–P**