

*Respondents:* Large certificated air carriers.

*Number of Respondents:* 40.

*Number of Responses:* 40.

*Total Annual Burden:* 26 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* As a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Treaty), the United States is obligated to provide ICAO with financial and statistical data on operations of U.S. carriers. Over 99% of the data filled with ICAO is extracted from the air carriers' Form 41 submissions to BTS. BTS Form EF is the means by which BTS supplies the remaining 1% of the air carrier data to ICAO.

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note), requires a statistical agency to clearly identify information it collects for non-statistical purposes. BTS hereby notifies the respondents and the public that BTS uses the information it collects under this OMB approval for non-statistical purposes including, but not limited to, publication of both Respondent's identity and its data, submission of the information to agencies outside BTS for review, analysis and possible use in regulatory and other administrative matters.

**Donald W. Bright,**

*Assistant Director, Airline Information,  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 04-27593 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Bureau of Transportation Statistics

#### Agency Information Collection; Activity Under OMB Review; Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Large Certificated Air Carriers

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics invites the general public, industry and other governmental parties to comment on the continuing need for and usefulness of the BTS Form 41. Comments are requested concerning whether the continuation of Form 41 is necessary for DOT to carry out its mission of promoting air transportation; BTS accurately estimated the reporting burden; there are other ways to enhance the quality, use and clarity of the data collected; and there are ways to

minimize reporting burden, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by February 15, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: Office of Airline Information, K-14, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, FAX NO. (202) 366-3383 or EMAIL [bernard.stankus@bts.gov](mailto:bernard.stankus@bts.gov).

*Comments:* Comments should identify the OMB # 2138-0013. Persons wishing the Department to acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments on OMB # 2138-0013. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-14, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4387.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*OMB Approval No.:* 2138-0013.

*Title:* Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Large Certificated Air Carriers.

*Form No.:* BTS Form 41.

*Type Of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Large certificated air carriers.

*Number of Respondents:* 84.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 4 hours per schedule, an average carrier may submit 90 schedules in one year.

*Total Annual Burden:* 27,000 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* Program uses for Form 41 data are as follows:

#### Mail Rates

The Department of Transportation sets and updates the international and mainline Alaska mail rates based on carrier aircraft operating expense, traffic and operational data. Form 41 cost data, especially fuel costs, terminal expenses, and line haul expenses are used in arriving at rate levels. DOT revises the established rates based on the percentage of unit cost changes in the carriers' operations. These updating procedures have resulted in the carriers receiving rates of compensation that more closely parallel their costs of providing mail service and contribute to the carriers' economic well-being.

#### Submission of U.S. Carrier Data to ICAO

As a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the United

States is obligated to provide the International Civil Aviation Organization with financial and statistical data on operations of U.S. air carriers. Over 99 percent of the data filed with ICAO is extracted from the carriers' Form 41 reports.

#### Standard Foreign Fare and Rate Levels

DOT uses Form 41 cost data to calculate the Standard Foreign Fare Level (SFFL) for passengers and the Standard Foreign Rate Level (SFRL) for freight. Any international fare or rate set below this fare level are automatically approved. Separate passenger fare and rate levels are established for Canadian, Atlantic, Latin America, and Pacific areas. In markets where liberal bilateral or multilateral pricing agreements provide for more competitive open market pricing, such agreements may take precedence over the SFFL and SFRL.

#### Carrier Fitness

Fitness determinations are made for both new entrants and established U.S. domestic carriers proposing a substantial change in operations. A portion of these applications consists of an operating plan for the first year (14 CFR part 204) and an associated projection of revenues and expenses. The carrier's operating costs, included in these projections, are compared against the cost data in Form 41 for a carrier or carriers with the same aircraft type and similar operating characteristics. Such a review validates the reasonableness of the carrier's operating plan.

Form 41 reports, particularly balance sheet reports and cash flow statements play a major role in the identification of vulnerable carriers. Data comparisons are made between current and past periods in order to assess the current financial position of the carrier. Financial trend lines are extended into the future to analyze the continued viability of the carrier. DOT reviews three areas of a carrier's operation: (1) The qualifications of its management team, (2) its disposition to comply with laws and regulations, and (3) its financial posture. DOT must determine whether or not a carrier has sufficient financial resources to conduct its operations without imposing undue risk on the traveling public. Moreover, once a carrier is operating, DOT is required to monitor its continuing fitness.

Senior DOT officials must be kept fully informed as to all current and developing economic issues affecting the airline industry. In preparing financial conditions reports or status reports on a particular airline, financial

and traffic data are analyzed. Briefing papers may use the same information.

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note), requires a statistical agency to clearly identify information it collects for non-statistical purposes. BTS hereby notifies the respondents and the public that BTS uses the information it collects under this OMB approval for non-statistical purposes including, but not limited to, publication of both Respondent's identity and its data, submission of the information to agencies outside BTS for review, analysis and possible use in regulatory and other administrative matters.

**Donald W. Bright,**

*Assistant Director, Airline Information,  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Secretary

#### List of Countries Requiring Cooperation With an International Boycott

In order to comply with the mandate of section 999(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Department of the Treasury is publishing a current list of countries which may require participation in, or cooperation with, an international boycott (within the meaning of section 999(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

On the basis of the best information currently available to the Department of the Treasury, the following countries may require participation in, or cooperation with, an international boycott (within the meaning of section 999(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986): Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, Republic of.

Dated: December 13, 2004.

**Barbara Angus,**

*International Tax Counsel (Tax Policy).*

[FR Doc. 04-27631 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-25-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8893

**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 8893, Election of Partnership Level Tax Treatment.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 15, 2005, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3945, or through the Internet at [CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov](mailto:CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Title:* Election of Partnership Level Tax Treatment.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1912.

*Form Number:* 8893.

*Abstract:* IRC section 6231(a)(1)(B)(ii) allows small partnerships to elect to be treated under the unified audit and litigation procedure. Form 8893 will allow IRS to better track these elections by providing a standardized format for this election.

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

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

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

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 1 hour, 27 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 227.

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: December 13, 2004.

**R. Joseph Durbala,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-27680 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 1099-Q

**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 1099-Q, Payments From Qualified Education Programs (Under Sections 529 and 530).

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before February 15, 2005, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue