

Issued in Washington, DC.

Timothy R. Adams,

*Flight Standards Service Acting Deputy
Director, Safety Standards.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Extended Application Period; Tanker Security Program Application Solicitation

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of extended application period for the Tanker Security Program (TSP).

SUMMARY: On December 9, 2022, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) published a notice in the **Federal Register** providing how to apply to MARAD's new Tanker Security Program (TSP). By this follow-on notice MARAD is extending the application period for eligible candidates to the TSP and republishing the same information soliciting applications. The FY21 NDAA authorized the Secretary of Transportation to establish a fleet of active, commercially viable, militarily useful, privately owned product tank vessels of the United States. The fleet will meet national defense and other security requirements and maintain a United States presence in international commercial shipping. The FY22 NDAA made minor adjustments related to the participation of long-term charters in the TSP. This notice provides, among other things, application criteria and extends the original application deadline for submitting applications for the enrollment of vessels in the TSP.

DATES: Applications for enrollment must be received no later than February 17, 2023. Applications should be submitted to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section below.

ADDRESSES: Applications may be submitted electronically to sealiftsupport@dot.gov or in hard copy to the Tanker Security Program, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Application forms are available upon request or may be downloaded from MARAD's website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Hatcher, Director, Office of Sealift Support, Maritime Administration, Telephone (202) 366-0688. For legal questions, call Joseph Click, Office of Chief Counsel, Division of Maritime

Programs, Maritime Administration, (202) 366-5882.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 53402(a) of title 46, United States Code, requires that the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary), in consultation with the Secretary of Defense (SecDef), establish a fleet of active, commercially viable, militarily useful, privately-owned product tank vessels to meet national defense and other security requirements. The TSP will provide a stipend to tanker operators of U.S.-flagged vessels that meet certain qualifications.

Congress appropriated \$60,000,000 for the TSP in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, Public Law 117-269, to remain available until expended. Authorized payments to participating operators are limited to \$6 million per ship, per fiscal year and are subject to annual appropriations. Participating operators will be required to make their commercial transportation resources available upon request of the SecDef during times of war or national emergency.

Application Criteria

Section 53403(b)(2)(A) of title 46, United States Code directs the Secretary in consultation with the SecDef to consider applicant vessel qualifications as they relate to 46 CFR 294.9 and give priority to applications based on the following criteria:

- (1) Vessel capabilities, as established by SecDef;
- (2) Applicant's record of vessel ownership and operation of tanker vessels; and
- (3) Applicant's citizenship, with preference for Section 50501 Citizens.

Vessel Requirements

Acceptable vessels for a TSP Operating Agreement must meet the requirements of 46 U.S.C. 53402(b) and 46 CFR 294.9. The Commander, USTRANSCOM, has provided vessel suitability standards for eligible TSP vessels for use during the application selection process. The following suitability standards, consistent with the requirements of 46 U.S.C. 53402(b)(5), will apply to vessel applications:

- Medium Range (MR) tankers between 30,000–60,000 deadweight tons, with fuel cargo capacity of 230,000 barrels or greater.
- Deck space and size to accept installation of Consolidation (CONSOL) stations, two on each side for a total of four stations.
- Ability to accommodate up to an additional 12 crew for CONSOL,

security, and communication crew augmentation.

- Communication facilities capable of integrating secure communications equipment.

- Does not engage in commerce or acquire any supplies or services if any proclamation, Executive order, or statute administered by Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), or if OFAC's implementing regulations at 31 CFR Chapter V, would prohibit such a transaction by a person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, except as authorized by the OFAC in the Department of the Treasury.

- Operate in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Maximum draft of no more than 44 feet. Preference will be given to vessels that can transport the most fuel at the shallowest draft.

- Sustained service speed of at least 14 knots, with higher speeds preferred.
- Carry only clean refined products.
- Capable of carrying more than two separated grades of refined petroleum products with double valve protection between tanks. Additionally, the vessel must meet the standards of 46 U.S.C. 53401(4).

National Security Requirements

The applicants chosen to receive a TSP Operating Agreement will be required to enter into an Emergency Preparedness Agreement (EPA) under 46 U.S.C. 53407, or such other agreement as may be approved by the Secretaries. The current EPA approved by the Secretary and SecDef is the Voluntary Tanker Agreement (VTA), publicly available for review at 87 FR 67119 (November 7, 2022).

Documentation

A vessel chosen to receive the TSP Operating Agreement, must be documented as a U.S.-flag vessel under 46 U.S.C., chapter 121. An applicant proposing a foreign-flag vessel must demonstrate the vessel owner's intent to have the vessel so documented and must demonstrate that the vessel is so documented by the time the applicant enters into a TSP Operating Agreement for the vessel. Proof of U.S. Coast Guard vessel documentation and all relevant charter and management agreements for a chosen vessel must be approved by MARAD before the vessel will be eligible to receive TSP payments.

Vessel Operation

A vessel selected for award of a TSP Operating Agreement must be operated in foreign commerce, in mixed foreign commerce and domestic trade of the United States permitted under a registry endorsement issued under 46 U.S.C.

12111, or between U.S. ports and those points identified in 46 U.S.C. 55101(b), or in foreign-to-foreign commerce, and must not otherwise operate in the coastwise trade of the United States.

Protection of Confidential Commercial or Financial Information

If the application includes information that the applicant considers to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information, the applicant should do the following: (1) Note on the front cover that the submission “Contains Confidential Commercial or Financial Information (CCFI)”;

(2) mark each affected page “CCFI”; and (3) highlight or otherwise denote the CCFI portions. MARAD will protect such information from disclosure to the extent allowed under applicable law. In the event MARAD receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, procedures described in the Department’s FOIA regulation at 49 CFR 7.29 will be followed. Only information that is ultimately determined to be confidential under that procedure will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

Award of Operating Agreements

MARAD does not guarantee the award of TSP Operating Agreements in response to applications submitted under this Notice. In the event that no awards are made, or an application is not selected for an award, the applicant will be provided with a written reason why the application was denied, consistent with the requirements of 46 U.S.C. 53403.

(Authority: 46 U.S.C. chapter 534, 49 CFR 1.92 and 1.93, 46 CFR 294.)

By order of the Maritime Administrator.
T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2023-02373 Filed 2-3-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0860]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Reimbursement of Qualifying Adoption Expenses for Certain Veterans

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the

Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0860.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 266-4688 or email maribel.aponte@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0860” in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

Title: Reimbursement of Qualifying Adoption Expenses for Certain Veterans, VA Form 10-10152.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0860.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The VA’s authority to provide reimbursement of qualifying adoption expenses for certain covered Veterans is found in Section 236 of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018, Public Law 115-141 (March 23, 2018) (the “2018 Act”) and Section 235 of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019, Public Law 115-244 (September 21, 2018) (the “2019 Act”), which renewed and extended in nearly identical form Section 260 of the prior authorizing “2017 Act,” Public Law 114-223. VA has eliminated the section in the regulations that specifies an expiration date in order to accommodate Congressional renewal and extension of this authority under subsequent appropriations law.

Veterans with a service-connected disability that results in their inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatments are authorized to receive reimbursement for certain adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after September 29, 2016 (the date the 2017 Act was enacted). To

implement this benefit, VA uses VA Form 10-10152, paralleling DD 2675, which requires any Veteran requesting reimbursement of qualifying adoption expenses to submit the same types of evidence as required under similar DoD policy. VA Form 10-10152 was previously approved by OMB through the PRA clearance process, and VA now seeks a three-year extension of that approval of this information collection.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 87 FR 228 on November 29, 2022, page 73396.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 480 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per

Respondent: 6 hours.

Frequency of Response: Once annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 80.

By direction of the Secretary.

Maribel Aponte,

VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0154]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Application for VA Education Benefits; Application for Family Member To Use Transferred Benefits; Application for VA Benefits Under the National Call to Service Program

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden, and it includes the actual data collection instrument.