



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

60-Day Notice of Intent to Seek Extension of Approval of Collection: Waybill

Sample

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice of its intent to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of the collection of Waybill Sample, described below.

DATES: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by November 21, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Chris Oehrle, PRA Officer, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001, and to *PRA@stb.gov*. When submitting comments, please refer to “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Waybill Sample.” For further information regarding this collection, contact Pedro Ramirez at (202) 245-0333 or *pedro.ramirez@stb.gov*. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245-0245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are requested concerning each collection as to (1) whether the particular collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Board’s burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, when

appropriate. Submitted comments will be included and summarized in the Board's request for OMB approval.

SUBJECTS: In this notice, the Board is requesting comments on the extension of the following information collection:

DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Title: Waybill Sample

OMB Control Number: 2140-0015

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Extension without change

Respondents: Respondents include any railroad that is subject to the Interstate Commerce Act and that terminated at least 4,500 carloads on its line in any of the three preceding years or that terminated at least 5% of the revenue carloads terminating in any state in any of the three preceding years. For the purposes of this analysis, the Board categorizes railroads required to report Waybill Sample data as either quarterly or monthly and as either sampling their own waybills or having a third party conduct their sampling. As a result, there are four categories of respondents, as shown in Table below.

Table – Respondents

Categories of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Railroads that conduct their own sampling and report monthly	5
Railroads that conduct their own sampling and report quarterly	3
Railroads that have a third party sample their waybills and report monthly	2
Railroads that have a third party sample their waybills and report quarterly	43
Total Respondents	53

Number of Respondents: 53

Estimated Time Per Response: The estimated hourly burden for waybill samples submitted to the Board varies depending on each respondent's particular circumstances.

(Note: respondents that are identified as reporting monthly (Class I carriers) report

monthly, quarterly, and annually (or 17 times per year). All other respondents (non-Class I carriers) report quarterly and annually (five times a year)).

Frequency of Response: Six respondents report monthly; and 46 other respondents report quarterly.

Total Burden Hours (annually including all respondents): 420 hours. This estimated total burden hours is shown in the Table below.

Table – Total Burden Hours

Categories of Respondents	Total Annual Hours for Samples Submitted
Railroads that conduct their own sampling and report monthly	150
Railroads that conduct their own sampling and report quarterly	20
Railroads that have a third party sample their waybills and report monthly	30
Railroads that have a third party sample their waybills and report quarterly	220
Total Annual Burden Hours	420

Total Annual “Non-Hour Burden” Cost: There are no other costs identified because filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

Needs and Uses: The Board is, by statute, responsible for the economic regulation of common carrier rail transportation in the United States and collects rail-carload waybills for this purpose. The Board has authority to collect these waybills under 49 U.S.C. 11144, 11145, and the Board often uses the information in rail-carload waybills to carry out its responsibilities.

A rail-carload waybill is a “document or instrument prepared from the bill of lading contract or shipper’s instructions as to the disposition of the freight, and [is] used by the railroad(s) involved as the authority to move the shipment and as the basis for determining the freight charges and interline settlements.” 49 CFR 1244.1(c). From these carload waybills, the Board creates an aggregate compilation of the sampled

waybills of all reporting carriers, referred to as the Waybill Sample. The Waybill Sample is the Board's principal source of data about freight rail shipments. The information in the Waybill Sample is used by the Board, other federal and state agencies, and industry stakeholders to monitor traffic flows and rate trends in the industry, and to develop testimony in Board proceedings. The Board's collection and use of this data enables it to meet its statutory duty to regulate the rail industry.

The Board makes this submission because, under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), federal agencies are required to provide, prior to an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 60-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Information from certain schedules contained in these reports is available at the Board's website at www.stb.gov by navigating to "Reports & Data" and clicking on "Economic Data." Information in these reports is not available from any other source.

Dated: September 19, 2023.

Kenyatta Clay,

Clearance Clerk.

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