



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2024-0015]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On November 4, 2024, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR. FRA received no comments in response to the notice.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find the particular ICR by selecting “Currently under Review - Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Arlette Mussington, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: arlette.mussington@dot.gov or telephone: (571) 609-1285 or Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: joanne.swafford@dot.gov or telephone: (757) 897-9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On November 4, 2024, FRA published a 60-day notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting public comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. *See* 89 FR 87718. FRA has received no comments related to the proposed collection of information.

Before OMB decides whether to approve this proposed collection of information, it must provide 30 days' notice for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)–(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); *See also* 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. The 30-day notice informs the regulated community of their opportunity to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to consider public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance

as the PRA requires:

Title: Hours of Service Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0005.

Abstract: FRA’s hours of service recordkeeping regulations (49 CFR part 228), amended as mandated by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, include substantive hours of service requirements for train employees (*i.e.*, locomotive engineers and conductors) providing commuter and intercity rail passenger transportation (*e.g.*, maximum on-duty periods, minimum off-duty periods, and other limitations). The regulations also require railroads to evaluate passenger train employee work schedules for risk of employee fatigue and implement measures to mitigate the risk, and to submit to FRA for approval certain schedules and mitigation plans. Finally, the regulations include recordkeeping and reporting provisions requiring railroads to keep hours of service records, and report excess service, for train employees, signal employees, and dispatching service employees on both freight and passenger railroads. FRA uses the information collected to verify that railroads do not require or allow their employees to exceed maximum on-duty periods and ensure that they abide by minimum off-duty periods, and adhere to other limitations, to enhance rail safety and reduce the risk of accidents/incidents caused, or contributed to, by train employee fatigue.

Type of Request: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses (railroads and signal contractors).

Form(s): FRA F 6180.3.

Respondent Universe: 797 railroads, signal contractors and subcontractors.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 18,660,988.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 1,284,832 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$114,517,098.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,

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