Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Extension of ETA Summaries of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund Activities

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(C)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that, before a form can be provided to the public, the Federal agency can demonstrate the information is necessary and that it is to be collected, the burden is minimal, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision and extension of the ETA Summaries of UI Trust Fund Activities. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the contact section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 20, 1996.

Written comments should:
- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

ADDRESS: James E. Herbert, Unemployment Insurance Program Specialist, Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Room C 4514, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. (202) 644-2432 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 303(a)(4) of the Social Security Act (SSA) and Section 3304(a)(3) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) require that all money received in the unemployment fund of a State be paid immediately to the Secretary of the Treasury of the credit of the Unemployment Trust Fund (UTF). This is the "Liebisch deposit" standard. Section 303(a)(5) of the SSA and Section 303(a)(4) of the FUTA require that all money withdrawn from the UTF be used solely for the payment of unemployment compensation, exclusive of the expenses of administration. This is the "limited withdrawal" standard. Federal law (section 305(a)(6) of the SSA) gives the Secretary of Labor the authority to require the reporting of Information deemed necessary to assure State compliance with the provisions of the SSA.

Under this authority, the Secretary of Labor requires the following reports to monitor State compliance with the immediate deposit and limited withdrawal standards:

ETA 2112: UI Financial Transactions Summary, Unemployment Fund ETA 2011: Monthly Analysis of Benefit Payment Account ETA 8405: Monthly Analysis of Closing Account ETA 8413: Income—Expense Analysis UC Fund, Benefit Payment Account ETA 8414: Income—Expense Analysis UC Fund, Clearing Account ETA 8409: Reed Act These reports are submitted to the Unemployment Insurance Service (UIS) which uses them for the following purposes:
- Monitoring cash flows into and out of the UTF to determine State compliance with the immediate deposit and limited withdrawal standards.
- Proper accounting for unemployment funds. This is an integral part of the Department's consolidated financial statements. The UTF is the single largest asset on the Department's balance sheet.
- Reconciliation with U.S. Treasury records.
- Development of UI research and actuarial reports.

These reports have been submitted monthly by States for the past several years, recently in an electronic format which has reduced mail and storage costs. There is a viable system for the preparation and electronic delivery of the reports. Since the reports are essential to the Department's financial and program operations and are consonant with the Secretary of Labor's oversight responsibilities, the Department intends to seek OMB approval for a three year extension of them, to September 30, 1999.

II. Current Actions

This action is requested because of the need for continuing the existing collection of information. This information is needed to enable the Secretary of Labor to exercise oversight responsibilities and to assure the security, solvency, and integrity of the unemployment fund. Furthermore, the Department requires this information to compile annual consolidated financial statements and to prepare UIS statistical reports.

The information is not captured from any other source. Because the reporting systems has been operational for several years and is automated on-line, burden on States is negligible.

Type of Review: Extension. Agency: Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

Title: ETA Summaries of UI Trust Fund Activities.

OMB Number: 1205-0154.
Agency Number: 1205.
Recordkeeping: Three years.
Total Respondents: 53 State agencies.
Frequency: ETS 8405: As needed; this report is submitted only when there has been activity which requires updating the State's Reeds Act account. ETA 2112, 8401, 8405, 8413, 8414: Monthly.
Total Responses: 53 State agencies X 12 months X 836 responses = 57,532 responses.
Average Time Per Response: 836 responses X 2.5 hours (30 minutes per response) X 1,590 reporting hours. Reed Act (ETA 8403): 18 States X 12 responses X 216 annual responses X 30 minutes per response = 106 reporting hours.
Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1,698 hours.
Estimated Total Burden Cost: $68,277.25 + $4,711.50.
Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 12, 1996.

Mary Ann Wrach,  
Director, Unemployment Insurance Service.  
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Employment Standards Administration  

Proposed Collection; Comment Request  

ACTION: Notice.  

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4)(A)). This process helps to ensure that the requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, and the collection instruments are clearly understood; and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection of Form WH-514, Vehicle Mechanical Inspection Report for Transportation Subject to Department of Transportation Requirements; and Form 514a, Vehicle Mechanical Inspection Report for Transportation Subject to Department of Labor Safety Standards.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the address section below on or before August 23, 1996. The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

- Section 401 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) requires that Farm Labor Contractors (FLCs), Agricultural Employers (AGEs) or Agricultural Associations (AGAs) which use, or cause to be used any vehicle to transport a migrant or seasonal farm worker that must be able to transport migrant and seasonal agricultural workers. Form WH-514 is used to verify that Department of Labor (DOL) vehicle safety standards are met for any passenger automobile or station wagon, used, or caused to be used by any FLC, AGER, or AGA to transport any migrant or seasonal agricultural worker. Form WH-514a is used to verify that Department of Transportation (DOT) safety standards are met for any vehicle, other than a passenger automobile or station wagon, used, or caused to be used, to transport any migrant or seasonal agricultural worker. These forms were previously cleared under OMB 2121-0936. The current clearance does not expire until December 31, 1997. However, Pub. L. 104-9, in part, amended the MSPA regulatory process for setting minimum transportation liability insurance requirements for migrant workers. Final rules published on May 18, 1996, 61 FR 24858, revised paragraphs (a) and (b) of 500.121, Coverage and level of insurance required, 29 CFR part 500. Accordingly, it was necessary to revise Forms WH-514 and WH-514a, to require the respondent to provide information regarding the number of seats in the vehicle being inspected. Other minor revisions to these forms include: (a) The entry for "Date" has been removed from the top of the form since it duplicates "Date of Inspection" on the bottom of each form; (b) a check box for "van" has been added to each form, since vans frequently transport workers; and, (c) entries for the address and telephone number of the respondent (mechanic) have been added to allow DOT to verify, if necessary, information provided on the form.

II. Current Actions

The Department of Labor seeks revision approval to collect this information to carry out its responsibility to specifically identify the vehicles for which authorization to transport migrant and seasonal agricultural workers is requested and to note the applicable safety standards met by each vehicle. Without this information, it would be impossible for the Wage and Hour Division to verify that vehicles used to transport migrant and seasonal agricultural workers meet the safety standards required by MSPA.

Type of Review: Revision.

Agency: Employment Standards Administration.

Titles: Vehicle Mechanical Inspection Report for Transportation Subject to Department of Transportation Requirements, WH-514; and Vehicle Mechanical Inspection Report for Transportation Subject to Department of Labor Safety Standards, WH-514a.

OMB Number: 1215-0038.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Businesses or other for-profit, Not-for-profit Institutions.

Total Respondents: 1200.

Average Annual Responses per Form: 3000 (average of 3 per respondent)—WH-514 and WH-514a.

Average Time Per Response for Reporting: 45 minutes.

Average Time For Recordkeeping Per Record: 1 to 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 2,700.

Total Burden Cost (capital/operating): $0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): $0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 17, 1996.

Ceddy A. Keyburns,  
Director, Division of Financial Management, Office of Management, Administration and Planning, Employment Standards Administration.  
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