

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AJ79

Prevailing Rate Systems; Change in Federal Wage System Survey Job

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a proposed rule that would change a Federal Wage System appropriated fund optional survey job, Industrial Electronic Controls Repairer, so that its grade level and title would better reflect the level of work and occupational title that private industry typically uses. This change would enable the Department of Defense to collect more wage data when conducting local wage surveys to set pay levels for the Government's blue-collar workforce.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to Donald J. Winstead, Deputy Associate Director for Pay and Performance Policy, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, Room 7H31, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415-8200; e-mail payleave@opm.gov; or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark A. Allen, (202) 606-2848; e-mail maallen@opm.gov; or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the national labor-management committee responsible for advising the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on matters concerning the pay of Federal Wage System (FWS) employees, established a Survey Job Work Group (SJWG) to review the survey job descriptions the Department of Defense (DOD) uses

during FWS local wage surveys to determine prevailing rates of pay for FWS employees. DOD contacts private sector employers annually in each of the 132 appropriated fund FWS wage areas to determine prevailing rates of pay.

The SJWG has recommended that OPM change the title of the optional survey job, "Industrial Electronic Controls Repairer" to "Electronic Industrial Controls Mechanic," and the grade level of the survey job from WG-10 to WG-11. The change in job title is proposed so that it would conform to the title of the FWS job grading standards for the occupation, a title now also more commonly used in private industry. The change in grade would better reflect the grade level of the work that Federal employees are currently doing. When the job is surveyed in the future, it is anticipated that DOD would be able to collect more private sector wage data for the occupation. FPRAC agreed with the Work Group's recommendations.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it would affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,
Director.

Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management is proposing to amend 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

§ 532.217 [Amended]

2. In § 532.217, paragraph (c) table is amended by removing the job title entry "Industrial Electronic Controls Repairer", and its corresponding job grade "10", and adding in its place

"Electronic Industrial Controls Mechanic", grade "11".

[FR Doc. 03-20445 Filed 8-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-39-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Part 404

RIN 0960-AF78

Entitlement and Termination Requirements for Stepchildren

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) proposes to amend its regulations to incorporate the changes to the entitlement and termination requirements for stepchild's benefits introduced by the Contract with America Advancement Act of 1996. Under the changes, a stepchild is considered dependent upon a stepparent for Social Security benefit purposes only if he or she receives at least one-half support from the stepparent. The fact that a stepchild may be living with a stepparent is no longer a basis for a dependency determination. The changes also require benefit termination when the stepchild's natural parent and stepparent divorce (unless the stepchild has been adopted by the stepparent and can qualify for benefits as his or her adopted child). We propose to extend the termination requirement to include: A divorce that ends the marriage between a stepchild's adoptive parent and stepparent; and a prospective annulment that ends the marriage between a stepchild's natural or adoptive parent and stepparent. We also propose to include in the regulations our longstanding practice of terminating a stepchild's benefits when the marriage between the stepchild's parent and the stepparent is annulled from the beginning (*ab initio*). These rules would reflect enacted legislation and provide accurate and complete guidelines for determining entitlement to benefits.

DATES: In order for your comments to be considered, you must submit them on or before October 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may give us your comments by using our Internet site facility (*i.e.*, *Social Security Online*) at <http://policy.ssa.gov/pnpublic.nsf/>