

Attn: OMB Desk Officer for DOL, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 202-395-7316 (this is not a toll-free number), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Attestations by Employers Using Alien Crewmembers for Longshore Activities in U.S. Ports.

*OMB Number:* 1205-0309.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 1.

*Number of Annual Responses:* 1.

Activity	Average time per response	Total burden
Review Instructions .....	30 minutes .....	30 minutes.
Compile Info/File .....	2 hours .....	2 hours.
Complete, Summit and Provide notice .....	1 hour .....	1 hour.
Documentation/Maintenance .....	30 minutes .....	30 minutes.

*Total Burden Hours:* 4 hours.  
*Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs:* \$0.

*Total Annual Costs (Operating/Maintaining Systems or Purchasing Services):* \$0.

*Description:* The information provided on this form by employers seeking to use alien crewmembers to perform longshore activities in U.S. ports will permit the Department to meet federal responsibilities for program administration, management and oversight.

**Ira L. Mills,**  
*Departmental Clearance Officer.*  
[FR Doc. 04-16057 Filed 7-14-04; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4510-30-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Employment and Training Administration**

**Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations Unemployment Insurance (UI) Data Validation (DV) Program**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Department of Labor (Department) 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 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This

program helps to ensure that the requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed reauthorization of its authority to collect information on the accuracy of State UI required reports produced by the UI DV program. ETA is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval under the PRA95 to extend for three years authority to collect this information that expires on December 31, 2004.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before September 13, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to Burman Skrable, Office of Workforce Security, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-4522, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone: 202-693-3197 (this is not a toll-free number), fax: 202-693-3975, e-mail: [skrable.burman@dol.gov](mailto:skrable.burman@dol.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Burman Skrable, Office of Workforce Security, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-4522, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone: 202-693-3197 (this is not a toll-free number); fax: 202-693-3975; e-mail: [skrable.burman@dol.gov](mailto:skrable.burman@dol.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

Section 303(a)(6) of the Social Security Act specifies that the Secretary of Labor will not certify State UI programs to receive administrative grants unless the State's law includes provisions for—

making of such reports \* \* \* as the Secretary of Labor may from time to time require, and compliance with such provisions as the Secretary may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports.

The Department considers data validation one of those "provisions \* \* \* necessary to assure the correctness and verification" of the reports it requires.

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) requires Federal agencies to develop annual and strategic performance plans that establish performance goals, have concrete indicators of the extent that goals are achieved, and set performance targets. Each year, the agency is to issue a report that "evaluate[s] the performance plan for the current fiscal year relative to the performance achieved toward the performance goals in the fiscal year covered by the report." Section 1116 (d)(2) of OMB Circular A-11, which implements the GPRA process, cites the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 to emphasize the need for data validation by requiring that the agency's annual performance report "contain an assessment of the completeness and reliability of the performance data included in it [that] \* \* \* describes any material inadequacies in the completeness and reliability of the data." (OMB Circular

A-11, Section 230.2 (f)). The President's Management Agenda to improve the management and performance of the Federal government has emphasized the importance of complete information for program monitoring and improving program results.

In 2002, the Department required states to implement a UI DV program with a target of completing installation of the program by July 31, 2003, and submitting summary validation reports by September 30, 2003. The UI DV system is an extension of the Workload Validation (WV) program that all State Employment Security Agencies were required to operate between the mid-1970s and 2000. The WV program checked the validity of 29 report elements on four required UI reports, because they are combined into the "workload items" used apportion each State's share of funds appropriated for the administration of the UI program. The UI DV program employs a refined and automated version of WV's basic validation approach to review 1275 elements reported on 12 benefits reports and one tax report. The Department uses many of these elements for key performance measures as well as for the original workload items.

## II. Desired Focus of Comments

Currently, the Department is soliciting comments concerning the extension of the UI DV Program which:

- 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.

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

## III. Current Actions

The validation process assesses the validity (accuracy) of the counts of transactions or measurements of status

as follows. In the validation process, guided by a detailed handbook, the state first constructs extract files containing all pertinent individual transactions for the desired report period to be validated. Each transaction contains the necessary characteristics or dimensions that enable it to be summed into an independent recount of what the state has already reported. Standardized software edits the extract file, e.g., to remove duplicate transactions, then aggregates the transactions to produce an independent reconstruction or "validation count" of the reported figure. The reported count is considered valid by this "quantity" validation test if it is within  $\pm 2\%$  of the validation count ( $\pm 1\%$  for a GPRA related element). The software also draws samples of most transaction types from the extract files; guided by a state-specific handbook, the validators review these against documentation in the state's management information system to determine whether the transactions in the extract file are supported by system documentation and thus that the validation count can be trusted as accurate. The extract files are considered to pass this "quality" review if random samples indicate they contain no more than 5% reporting errors.

During FY 2005 and beyond, all states will be required to conduct a complete validation every three years. There are two exceptions to this rule: (1) groups of reported counts that are summed for purposes of making a Pass/Fail determination and do not pass validation by being within  $\pm 2\%$  of the reconstructed counts ( $\pm 1\%$  in the case of report elements used to calculate GPRA measures) must be revalidated within one year; the same is true for random samples that show that the underlying population from which they are drawn contains more than 5% of its transactions in error; and (2) all samples and counts used for GPRA measures must be validated annually regardless of whether they pass validity standards or not.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Title:* Unemployment Insurance Data Validation Program (ETA Handbook 361).

*OMB Number:* 1205-0431.

*Record Keeping:* States are required to retain validation results and supporting documentation for three years to support an audit.

*Affected Public:* State Workforce Agencies (SWAs).

*Frequency:* Annual.

*Total Respondents:* 53 SWAs.

*Total Responses:* 53 per year.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* SWA staff—550 hours.

*Total Burden Hours:* 29,150 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* N/A.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* \$946,792.

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

Dated: July 8, 2004, in Washington, DC.

**Cheryl Atkinson,**

*Administrator, Office of Workforce Security.*

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## MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

### Meeting of Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

**AGENCY:** Marine Mammal Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Marine Mammal Commission (Commission) will hold the third meeting of its Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals (Committee) 27-29 July 2004 in San Francisco, CA.

**DATES:** The Committee will meet Tuesday, July 27, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, July 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursday, July 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This meeting is open to the public. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Please refer to the Commission's Web site ([www.mmc.gov](http://www.mmc.gov)) for the most up-to-date meeting information. The Committee's fourth public meeting is scheduled for 30 November-2 December 2004 in New Orleans, LA. Further information on that meeting will be published in the **Federal Register** and posted on the Commission's Web site.

**ADDRESSES:** The July 27-29 meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Union Square, 480 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94108, phone (415) 398-8900 or (888) 218-0808, fax (415) 989-8823, <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hd/sfous>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin Vos, Sound Project Manager, Marine Mammal Commission, 4340 East-West Hwy., Rm. 905, Bethesda, MD 20814, e-mail: [evos@mmc.gov](mailto:evos@mmc.gov), tel.: (301) 504-0087, fax: (301) 504-0099; or visit the Commission's Web site at [www.mmc.gov](http://www.mmc.gov).