

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****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 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that 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. Currently, the Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: Authorization for Release of Medical Information (CM-936). A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this Notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before July 7, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Ms. Hazel M. Bell, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S-3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-0418, fax (202) 693-1451, Email [hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov](mailto:hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov). Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or Email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 as amended (30 U.S.C. 923), and 20 CFR 725.405 require that all relevant medical evidence be considered before a decision can be made regarding a claimant's eligibility for benefits. The CM-936 is a form that gives the claimant's consent for release of information required by the Privacy Act of 1974, and contains information required by medical institutions and private physicians to enable them to release pertinent medical information. This information collection is currently approved for use through November 30, 2003.

**II. Review Focus**

The Department of Labor 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 submissions of responses.

**III. Current Actions**

The Department of Labor seeks approval for the extension of this information collection in order to obtain the claimant's consent for medical institutions and private physicians to release medical information to the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation as evidence to support their claim for benefits. Failure to gather this information would inhibit the adjudication of black lung claims because pertinent medical data would not be considered during the processing.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Employment Standards Administration.

*Title:* Authorization for Release of Medical Information.

*OMB Number:* 1215-0057.

*Agency Number:* CM-936.

*Affected Public:* Individual or households.

*Total Respondents:* 1,500.

*Total Responses:* 1,500.

*Time per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency:* Once.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 125.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$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: May 1, 2003.

**Bruce Bohanon,**

*Chief, Branch of Management Review and Internal Control, Division of Financial Management, Office of Management, Administration and Planning, Employment Standards Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4510-CK-P****DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****Wage and Hour Division****Special Industry Committee for All Industries in American Samoa; Appointment; Convention; Hearing; Extension of Comment Period**

**AGENCY:** Wage and Hour Division, Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document extends the period for filing pre-hearing statements with the Special Industry Committee No. 25. Each pre-hearing statement shall contain the data specified in 29 CFR 511.8 of the regulations and shall be filed not later than May 23, 2003. This action is taken to permit additional comments from interested persons.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 23, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: National Office of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington DC 20210.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dave Flick, (202) 693-0065.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the **Federal Register** of April 23, 2003 (Vol. 68, No. 78, Page 20032), the Department of Labor published a notice inviting the submission of pre-hearing statements to the Special Industry Committee for All Industries in American Samoa. Because of an unexpected delay in the release of the Economic Report, the Department will accept pre-hearing statements submitted by interested persons by May 23, 2003. If such statements are sent by airmail between American Samoa and the mainland, such filing shall be deemed timely if postmarked within the time provided. Interested persons are requested to submit comments on or before May 23, 2003.

Because of the continuing interest in this notice, the Department believes that it is desirable to extend the comment period for all interested persons. Therefore, the comment period for this notice pursuant to sections 5 and 6(a)(3) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938, as amended (29 U.S.C. 205,