

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Paul H. Lohaus,
Director, Office of State Programs.
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 BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

POSTAL SERVICE

Privacy Act of 1974, System of Records

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice of new system of records.

SUMMARY: The purposes of this document are to publish notice of a change in the title to grouping of records 030.000 Equal Employment Opportunity to read "030.000 Equal Employment Opportunity/Alternative Dispute Resolution" and to publish notice of a new Privacy Act system of records under that grouping, USPS 030.040, Equal Employment Opportunity/Alternative Dispute Resolution-Roster of Alternative Dispute Resolution Providers. The change in title more accurately reflects the types of records covered by this group. The new system contains the names and addresses of alternative dispute resolution providers such as mediators, who express an interest by completing a survey regarding their dispute resolution experience.

DATES: Any interested party may submit written comments on the proposed new system of records. This proposal will become effective without further notice on December 28, 1999, unless comments received on or before that date result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this proposal should be mailed or delivered to Administration and FOIA, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 8141, Washington, DC 20260-5202. Copies of all written comments will be available at the above address for public inspection and photocopying between 8 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rubenia Carter (202) 268-4872.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Postal Service is proposing to use independent contractors to resolve disputes including, but not limited to, EEO and Merit Systems Protection Board administrative cases. A roster will be maintained by the Postal Service of prequalified providers to select from to handle disputes. To be placed on the roster, an applicant must first complete an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Provider Survey. The survey will be screened to determine if the

applicant meets the minimum criteria for mediating Postal Service cases. The survey requires an applicant to provide his or her previous mediator, arbitrator or other dispute resolution experience, education, and other required information. A waiver of the minimum criteria may be given to applicants on a limited basis at the sole discretion of the Postal Service. Applicants who fail to meet the minimum criteria and are not granted a waiver are disqualified for mediating disputes.

Maintenance of these records is not expected to have a significant effect on individual privacy rights. Information kept is limited to the name and address and other information requested on the survey questionnaire. The information will be kept in a secured environment, with automated data processing (ADP) physical and administrative security and technical software applied to information on computer media. Computers and hard copy records are maintained in a secured environment. To the extent that the information may be shared with another federal agency, it is shared with the understanding that the information will be maintained and protected in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(11), interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, or arguments on this proposal. A report on the following proposed system has been sent to Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget for their evaluation.

USPS 030.040

SYSTEM NAME:

Equal Employment Opportunity/Alternative Dispute Resolution-Roster of Alternative Dispute Resolution Providers, 030.040.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Law Department, Postal Service Headquarters, and field offices; area and district offices.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Individuals and organizations interested in providing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services to all disputes except those arising under Postal Service collective bargaining agreements.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Name, address, telephone, and fax numbers of alternative dispute resolution providers; education, certification status, special qualifications; types of disputes

mediated; partnering agreements; evaluation as a neutral; billing information; and any other correspondence relating to the individual performance or information contained on the survey.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:
 39 U.S.C. 401.

PURPOSE(S):

Used to determine an individual's qualifications to provide ADR services.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSE OF SUCH USES:

General routine use statements a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, and m listed in the prefatory statement at the beginning of the Postal Service's published system notices apply to this system. Another routine use follows:

1. To another federal agency upon request who needs the names and/or addresses and other information about ADR providers to arrange for or manage ADR proceedings for that agency.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Paper records are maintained in locked file cabinets and computer files on magnetic tape or disk in automated office equipment.

RETRIEVABILITY:

By ADR provider's name.

SAFEGUARDS:

Paper records are kept in locked file cabinets; automated data are password-protected.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Files of active ADR providers: Cutoff file upon notification of decertification or removal. Destroy one year from date of cutoff. Files of rejected ADR providers: Cutoff file at end of year in which survey was received from prospective ADR provider. Maintain file for one year after cutoff date.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL, LAW DEPARTMENT, UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, 475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW, WASHINGTON DC 20260-1100

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Individuals wanting to know whether information about them is maintained in this system of records must address inquiries to the system manager. Inquiries must contain full name and address of the individual and date the survey was completed.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Requests for access must be made in accordance with notification procedure above and the Postal Service Privacy Act regulations regarding access to records and verification of identity under 39 CFR 266.6.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

See Notification and Record Access Procedures above.

RECORDS SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information is received from ADR provider completing survey.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

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BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**2000 Railroad Experience Rating Proclamations, Monthly Compensation Base and Other Determinations**

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 8(c)(2) and section 12(r)(3) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2) and 45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3), respectively), the Board gives notice of the following:

1. The balance to the credit of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance (RUI) Account, as of June 30, 1999, is \$118,691,628.59;
2. The September 30, 1999, balance of any new loans to the RUI Account, including accrued interest, is zero;
3. The system compensation base is \$3,029,230,161.91 as of June 30, 1999;
4. The cumulative system unallocated charge balance is (\$213,332,043.71) as of June 30, 1999;
5. The pooled credit ratio for calendar year 2000 is zero;
6. The pooled charged ratio for calendar year 2000 is zero;
7. The surcharge rate for calendar year 2000 is zero;
8. The monthly compensation base under section 1(i) of the Act is \$1,005 for months in calendar year 2000;
9. The amount described in section 1(k) of the Act as "2.5 times the monthly compensation base" is \$2,512.50 for base year (calendar year) 2000;
10. The amount described in section 2(c) of the Act as "an amount that bears the same ratio to \$775 as the monthly compensation base for that year as computed under section 1(i) of this Act bears to \$600" is \$1,298 for months in calendar year 2000;
11. The amount described in section 3 of the Act as "2.5 times the monthly

compensation base" is \$2,512.50 for base year (calendar year) 2000;

12. The amount described in section 4(a-2)(i)(A) of the Act as "2.5 times the monthly compensation base" is \$2,512.50 with respect to disqualifications ending in calendar year 2000;

13. The maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act is \$48 with respect to days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2000.

DATES: The balance in notice (1) and the determinations made in notices (3) through (7) are based on data as of June 30, 1999. The balance in notice (2) is based on data as of September 30, 1999. The determinations made in notices (5) through (7) apply to the calculation, under section 8(a)(1)(C) of the Act, of employer contribution rates for 2000. The determinations made in notices (8) through (12) are effective January 1, 2000. The determination made in notice (13) is effective for registration periods beginning after June 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marla L. Huddleston, Bureau of the Actuary, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092, telephone (312) 751-4779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RRB is required by section 8(c)(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(1)) as amended by Public Law 100-647, to proclaim by October 15 of each year certain system-wide factors used in calculating experience-based employer contribution rates for the following year. The RRB is further required by section 8(c)(2) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2)) to publish the amounts so determined and proclaimed. The RRB is required by section 12(r)(3) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3)) to publish by December 11, 1999, the computation of the calendar year 2000 monthly compensation base (section 1(i) of the Act) and amounts described in sections 1(k), 2(c), 3 and 4(a-2)(i)(A) of the Act which are related to changes in the monthly compensation base. Also, the RRB is required to publish, by June 11, 2000, the maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act for days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2000.

Surcharge Rate

A surcharge is added in the calculation of each employer's contribution rate, subject to the applicable maximum rate, for a calendar

year whenever the balance to the credit of the RUI Account on the preceding June 30 is less than the greater of \$100 million or the amount that bears the same ratio to \$100 million as the system compensation base for that June 30 bears to the system compensation base as of June 30, 1991. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$100 million (as indexed), but at least \$50 million (as indexed), the surcharge will be 1.5 percent. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$50 million (as indexed), but greater than zero, the surcharge will be 2.5 percent. The maximum surcharge of 3.5 percent applies if the RUI Account balance is less than zero.

The system compensation base as of June 30, 1991 was \$2,799,430,259.23. The system compensation base for June 30, 1999 was \$3,029,230,161.91. The ratio of \$3,029,230,161.91 to \$2,799,430,259.23 is 1.08208810. Multiplying 1.08208810 by \$100 million yields \$108,208,810. Multiplying \$50 million by 1.08208810 produces \$54,104,405. The Account balance on June 30, 1999, was \$118,691,628.59. Accordingly, the surcharge rate for calendar year 2000 is zero.

Monthly Compensation Base

For years after 1988, section 1(i) of the Act contains a formula for determining the monthly compensation base. Under the prescribed formula, the monthly compensation base increases by approximately two-thirds of the cumulative growth in average national wages since 1984. The monthly compensation base for months in calendar year 2000 shall be equal to the greater of (a) \$600 or (b) \$600 $[1 + \{(A - 37,800)/56,700\}]$, where A equals the amount of the applicable base with respect to tier 1 taxes for 2000 under section 3231(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Section 1(i) further provides that if the amount so determined is not a multiple of \$5, it shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$5.

The calendar year 2000 tier 1 tax base is \$76,200. Subtracting \$37,800 from \$76,200 produces \$38,400. Dividing \$38,400 by \$56,700 yields a ratio of 0.67724868. Adding one gives 1.67724868. Multiplying \$600 by the amount 1.67724868 produces the amount of \$1,006.35, which must then be rounded to \$1,005. Accordingly, the monthly compensation base is determined to be \$1,005 for months in calendar year 2000.

Amounts Related to Changes in Monthly Compensation Base

For years after 1988, sections 1(k), 2(c), 3 and 4(a-2)(i)(A) of the Act