

Code of 1986, as amended, administrators of pension and welfare benefit plans (collectively, employee benefit plans) subject to those provisions and employers sponsoring certain fringe benefit plans and other plans of deferred compensation are required to file returns/reports annually concerning the financial condition and operations of the plans. These reporting requirements are satisfied generally by filing the Form 5500 Series in accordance with its instructions and the related regulations.

In August of 1998, the Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (collectively, the Agencies) received approval for the revised and streamlined Form 5500 Series, subject to the Agencies' solicitation of public comments on a computer scannable format for the Form 5500. A notice requesting comments from the public on computer scannable formats was published by the Agencies on June 28, 1999 (64 FR 34686). The final computer scannable "hand print" and "machine-print" formats for the Form 5500 were announced on February 2, 2000 in connection with the Agencies' Notice of Adoption of Revised Forms (65 FR 5026).

The computer scannable formats were developed to facilitate the implementation of the new computerized system to process the Form 5500 and IRS Form 5500-EZ—the ERISA Filing and Acceptance System, or EFAST. EFAST is designed to simplify and expedite the receipt and processing of the new Form 5500 and Form 5500-EZ by relying on computer scannable forms and electronic filing technologies. The computer scannable forms are being implemented for 1999 plan year filings. The Form 5500 and Form 5500-EZ for 1999 plan years also may be filed electronically via modem, magnetic tape, floppy diskette, or CD-ROM.

In order to participate in the electronic filing program, applicants will be required to submit an Application for EFAST Electronic Signature and Codes for EFAST Transmitters and Software Developers (Form EFAST-1), the subject of this ICR. The Internal Revenue Service currently uses forms for similar purposes. This new EFAST form was designed to meet the needs of the new processing system.

Applicants who may file the Form EFAST-1 include: (1) Individuals applying for an electronic signature to sign a Form 5500 or 5500-EZ as, or on behalf of, plan administrators,

employers/plan sponsors, or Direct Filing Entities (DFEs) using modem, magnetic tape, floppy diskette, or CD-ROM to file electronically; (2) transmitters (a company, trade, business, or other person) applying for codes to transmit Forms 5500 and/or Forms 5500-EZ for electronic filing using modem, magnetic tape, floppy diskette, or CD-ROM; and, (3) software developers (a company, trade, business, or other person that creates, programs, or otherwise modifies computer software) applying for codes required to develop EFAST-compliant computer software for electronically preparing and filing the Form 5500 and/or Form 5500-EZ. Applicants will provide some or all of the following information depending on applicant type: name and title of applicant, mailing address, Employer Identification Number (EIN), telephone number, facsimile number and e-mail address (optional), contact person if different than applicant, and a signed agreement concerning the terms and conditions of the electronic filing program. Applicants will receive, depending on applicant type, some or all of the following: electronic signature; filer identification number; personal identification number; encryption key; electronic filing identification number; password; and software developer ID. Applicants will use these codes, as applicable, in connection with electronic filing, electronic transmission, or developing EFAST software for the Form 5500 and 5500-EZ.

The information provided by the applicants on EFAST-1, combined with the codes supplied to the applicants by the program, will allow EFAST to verify a filer, transmitter or software developer's standing as a qualified participant in the EFAST electronic filing program for the Form 5500 and 5500-EZ. EFAST-1 information also will establish a means of contact between the EFAST program and filers, transmitters, and software developers for information exchange.

Maureen D. Hill,

Acting Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the date and location of the next meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH), established under section 7(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 656) to advise the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on matters relating to the administration of the Act. NACOSH will hold a meeting on April 12 and 13, 2000, in Room N 3437 A-D of the Department of Labor Building located at 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 9 am lasting until approximately 4:30 p.m. the first day, April 12. On April 13, the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last no later than 4:00 p.m. However, if work is completed earlier on the draft report the committee will be working on, the meeting may end sooner.

During its November 1998 meeting, NACOSH decided that one of its areas of activity over the next two years would be to study OSHA's standards development process. The Committee has now completed its study after holding panel discussions during the last four meetings involving internal staff and members of the public who were involved with the OSHA standards setting process. This included people who had been involved with the development of the methylene chloride standard; those who had served on two types of advisory committees; representatives of consensus standards setting organizations and other professional associations; and representatives of other Federal regulatory agencies. During its April 12-13 meeting, the committee will be going over its draft report and recommendations in full detail. It is difficult to estimate how long this will take, but the first afternoon and all of the second day have been dedicated to this process.

Other agenda items will include an overview of current activities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) which will be scheduled for the first morning, April 12.

Written data, views or comments for consideration by the committee may be submitted, preferably with 20 copies, to Joanne Goodell at the address provided below. Any such submissions received prior to the meeting will be provided to the members of the Committee and will be included in the record of the meeting. Because of the need to cover a wide variety of subjects in a short period of time, there is usually insufficient time on the agenda for members of the public to address the committee orally. However, any such requests will be considered by the Chair who will determine whether or not time permits. Any request to make an oral presentation should state the amount of time desired, the capacity in which the person would appear, and a brief outline of the content of the presentation. Individuals with disabilities who need special accommodations should contact Veneta Chatmon (phone: 202-693-1912; FAX: 202-693-1634) one week before the meeting.

An official record of the meeting will be available for public inspection in the OSHA Technical Data Center (TDC) located in Room N2625 of the Department of Labor Building (202-693-2350). For additional information contact: Joanne Goodell, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); Room N-3641, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20210 (phone: 202-693-2400; FAX: 202-693-1641; e-mail joanne.goodell@osha.gov; or at www.osha.gov).

Dated: Signed at Washington, DC, this 3rd day of March, 2000.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 00-5766 Filed 3-08-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (the Department), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and other federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing

collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data is 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. By this notice, the Department is soliciting comments concerning the Application for EFAST Electronic Signature and Codes for EFAST Transmitters and Software Developers (Form EFAST-1). A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this notice. The proposed Form EFAST-1 is also available for viewing and downloading through the Department of Labor's Internet site (<http://www.efast.dol.gov>).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before May 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments regarding the collection of information. Send comments to Gerald B. Lindrew, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-5647, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-4782; Fax: (202) 219-4745. These are not toll-free numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under part 1 of Title 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), Title IV of ERISA, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, administrators of pension and welfare benefit plans (collectively, employee benefit plans) subject to those provisions and employers sponsoring certain fringe benefit plans and other plans of deferred compensation are required to file returns/reports annually concerning the financial condition and operations of the plans. These reporting requirements are satisfied generally by filing the Form 5500 Series in accordance with its instructions and the related regulations.

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