

May 29, 1996, designated four additional tracks as main tracks at the El Paso facility for a total of six main tracks in the El Paso facility. These tracks are in the middle of the El Paso facility and are used for functions normally performed on yard tracks. Trains passing through the El Paso facility stop on one of the main tracks for fuel, locomotive inspection, or adding or removing power from the train. To perform this work on the main track, SP must provide blue signal protection under 49 CFR 218.25 which states in part:

When workers are on, under, or between rolling equipment on a main track:

- (a) A blue signal must be displayed at each end of the rolling equipment; and
- (b) If the rolling equipment to be protected includes one or more locomotives, a blue signal must be attached to the controlling locomotive at a location where it is readily visible to the engineman or operator at the controls of that locomotive.

SP is requesting the flexibility to treat these main tracks at the El Paso facility as tracks other than main tracks so it may have the option of protecting its employees working on, under, or between rolling equipment in accordance with 49 CFR 218.25 or 218.27, or a combination of both. SP believes that the safest and most efficient method of protecting its employees in the El Paso facility is through the use of a combination of blue signal protection and remotely controlled switches.

Currently, when a train enters the El Paso facility, it stops on one of the main tracks for fueling, locomotive inspection, or other work. Once the train stops, before any work is performed, blue signal protection is placed on the train. A mechanical employee places a blue signal in front of the train. He then drives one to one and one-half miles to the other end of the train to place another blue signal. This usually takes 10 to 15 minutes, during which time no work can be done on the train. Once the blue signals are set, work begins on the train. After the work is completed, the blue signal at the front of the train is removed by the mechanical employee who then drives to the other end of the train to remove the other blue signal.

SP seeks the opportunity to use remotely controlled switches alone or in combination with blue signals to protect its employees working on, under, or between rolling equipment on its main tracks in the El Paso facility. This can

best be demonstrated by the following example: "A train enters the El Paso facility on main track 1 from the west (heading eastward). Once the train comes to a stop, a blue signal would be placed in front of the train. After the signal is placed on the train, a blue signal would be placed in front of the train. After the signal is placed on the train, a mechanical employee would contact the control operator in the tower who controls the appropriate remove control switch and advise him to appropriately line and lock main track 1 switch. Work on the train could immediately commence, avoiding the delay incurred by the mechanical employee having to drive to the other end of the train and set up a blue signal. Once work on the train is completed, the mechanical employee would remove the blue signal at the front of the train and contact the control operator to reline and unlock the appropriate switch."

Each group of workmen will be protected by a combination of blue signals and locked switches. Work on a train will not begin until blue signals are set and/or switches locked. SP will be able to work trains on five main tracks at the same time, reserving the sixth main track for through service which will improve the efficiency of the El Paso facility and provide the same level of blue signal protection for its employees.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number PB-94-3) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. 20590. Communications received within 30 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at FRA's temporary docket room located at 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 7051, Washington, DC. 20005.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 6, 1997.

Phil Olekszyk,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.

[FR Doc. 97-6371 Filed 3-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 6, 1997.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

SPECIAL REQUEST: In order to begin the survey described below in late March 1997, the Department of the Treasury is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approve this information collection by March 18, 1997. To obtain a copy of this study, please contact the Internal Revenue Service Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-1432.

Project Number: M:SP:V 97-007-G.

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: IRS Appeals Process Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Description: The National Director of Appeals anticipates that approximately 72,000 taxpayers will avail themselves of the Appeals process over the next year. This translates into about 6,000 closed cases each month, on average. This survey will incorporate three mailouts: (1) An initial mailout; (2) a second mailout to those who failed to respond within three weeks after all initial requests have been mailed; and (3) a third mailout to those who fail to respond within three weeks after the second mailout. All questionnaires will be returned to the Office of the National Director of Appeals in the National Office. Results will be used to evaluate how the Office of Appeals can improve its performance and reduce taxpayer burden by providing better customer service.

Respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Response: 4 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Other.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 400 hours.

Clearance Officer: Garrick Shear (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dale A. Morgan,

Departmental Reports Management Officer.
[FR Doc. 97-6258 Filed 3-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 5, 1997.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

U.S. Customs Service (CUS)

OMB Number: New.

Form Number: CF 446.

Type of Review: New collection.

Title: North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Certificate of Origin Verification Questionnaire.

Description: The objectives of NAFTA are to eliminate barriers to trade in goods and services between the United States, Mexico, and Canada; facilitate conditions of fair competition within the free trade area; liberalize significantly conditions for investments within the free trade area; establish effective procedures for the joint administration of the NAFTA; and the resolution of disputes.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households, Not-for-profit institutions, Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 5,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting/

Recordkeeping Burden: 24,000 hours.

Clearance Officer: J. Edgar Nichols (202) 927-1426, U.S. Customs Service, Printing and Records Management Branch, Room 6216, 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20229.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dale A. Morgan,

Departmental Reports Management Officer.
[FR Doc. 97-6259 Filed 3-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 1096

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 1096, Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 12, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns.

OMB Number: 1545-0108 *Form Number:* 1096.

Abstract: Form 1096 is used to transmit information returns (Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G) to the IRS service centers. Under Internal Revenue Code section 6041 and related regulations, a separate Form 1096 is

used for each type of return sent to the service center by the payer. It is used by IRS to summarize, categorize, and process the forms being filed.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households, not-for-profit institutions, farms, Federal government, and State, local or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,197,271.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 10 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 966,805.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: February 21, 1997.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-6389 Filed 3-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U