

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION****Southern States Regional Fairness Board; Public Hearing**

The Southern States Regional Fairness Board hearing, to be held on May 1, 1998, starting at 10:00am at the Rogers University Auditorium, 700 N. Greenwood Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, in space being provided by Rogers University in cooperation with the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, to receive comments from small businesses concerning regulatory enforcement or compliance taken by federal agencies. Transcripts of these proceedings will be posted on the Internet. These transcripts are subject only to limited review by the National Ombudsman.

For further information contact Gary P. Peele, telephone (312) 353-0880.

**Shirl Thomas,**

*Director, National Advisory Council.*

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**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION****Vendor List**

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Social Security Administration (SSA) is developing for publication a list of vendors who prepare magnetic media or electronic filing of Annual Wage Reports (forms W-3/W-2) for submission to SSA.

**DATES:** The vendor list will be updated annually and all additions/changes should be submitted by July 1 of each year.

**ADDRESSES:** Vendors can mail their information to SSA at the following address: Social Security Administration, Office of Senior Financial Executive, attn: Vendor List, Room 451 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD. 21235; or information can be faxed to SSA at the following number: (410) 966-8753, attn: Vendor List.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Norman Goldstein, Social Security Administration, Office of Senior Financial Executive, 451 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, Phone (410) 965-1970.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The vendor list which SSA plans to compile and publish annually will contain the names of: (1) Service bureaus that can produce annual wage reports on prescribed types of magnetic media or

can electronically file annual wage reports, and (2) vendors that provide software packages for employers or third-party practitioners who wish to produce annual wage reports on magnetic tapes, cartridges, diskettes or electronic files for transmission to SSA. The Agency will provide this listing as a courtesy to employers. The listing in no way implies SSA approval or endorsement of the listed service bureaus or vendors.

To obtain a copy of the vendor listing, an employer may contact SSA via telephone at 1-800-772-1213 or by mail to the following address: Social Security Administration, Office of Senior Financial Executive, Attention: Vendor List, Room 451 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. This vendor listing will also be available from the SSA Employer Information Bulletin Board Service at (410) 965-1133 or the SSA Internet home page at WWW.SSA.GOV. Vendor names will not be provided over the telephone.

A service bureau or vendor, which would like to be included on the list, must submit a written request to SSA. Requests should be submitted by July 1 of each year, and must include the following:

- a. Company name
- b. Address (include city, state, and ZIP Code)
- c. Telephone number (include area code)
- d. Contact person
- e. Type(s) of service provided (e.g., service bureau and/or software)
- f. Type(s) of media offered (e.g., magnetic tape or tape cartridge, 5¼- or 3½-inch diskettes, or electronic filing)
- g. Signature by Principal of company

Dated: March 10, 1998.

**Norm Goldstein,**

*Senior Financial Executive.*

[FR Doc. 98-7279 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE****Office of the Secretary**

[Public Notice #2770]

**Extension of the Restriction on the Use of United States Passports for Travel to, in or Through Iraq**

On February 1, 1991, pursuant to the authority of 22 U.S.C. 211a and Executive Order 11295 (31 FR 10603), and in accordance with 22 CFR 51.73(a)(2) and (a)(3), all United States passports, with certain exceptions, were declared invalid for travel to, in, or

through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel. The restriction was originally imposed because armed hostilities then were taking place in Iraq and Kuwait, and because there was an imminent danger to the safety of United States travelers to Iraq. American citizens then residing in Iraq and American professional reporters and journalists on assignment there were exempted from the restriction on the ground that such exemptions were in the national interest. The restriction has been extended for additional one year periods since then, and was last extended on March 20, 1997.

Conditions in Iraq remain unsettled and hazardous. Despite the recently concluded U.N. Memorandum of Understanding with Iraq, tensions remain high. The government of Iraq continues to mount a virulent public campaign in which the United States is blamed for maintenance of U.N. sanctions. In southern Iraq, military repression of the Shia communities is severe, rendering conditions unsafe. There is a risk of conflict between Kurdish groups. Iraq's economy was severely damaged during the Gulf War and continues to be affected by the U.N. economic sanctions and the Government of Iraq's refusal to fully implement the U.N.'s Oil for Food program. Basic modern medical care and medicines may not be available to our citizens in case of emergency. U.S. citizens and other foreigners working inside Kuwait near the Iraqi borders have been detained by Iraqi authorities in the past and sentenced to lengthy jail terms for alleged illegal entry into the country. Although our interests are represented by the Embassy of Poland in Bagdad, its ability to obtain consular access to detained U.S. citizens and to perform emergency services is constrained by Iraqi unwillingness to cooperate. In light of these circumstances, I have determined that Iraq continues to be a country " \* \* \* where there is imminent danger to the public health or physical safety of United States travelers".

Accordingly, United States passports shall continue to be invalid for use in travel to, in, or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel under the authority of the Secretary of State. The restriction shall not apply to American citizens residing in Iraq on February 1, 1991 who continue to reside there, or to American professional reporters or journalists on assignment there.

The Public Notice shall be effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** and shall expire at the end of