

provided the alien has not violated the terms of his or her admission to the United States, at any time the Commissioner determines that the H-1B cap will be reached prior to the end of the fiscal year. This extension shall continue for such time as is necessary for the Service to approve a petition changing the alien's status to H-1B in the following fiscal year. An alien whose duration of status has been extended by the Commissioner under these regulations (and who continues to adhere to the other terms of the alien's F and J status) is considered to be maintaining lawful nonimmigrant status for all purposes under the Act.

**When will the Commissioner exercise her authority to extend duration of status for this fiscal year?**

This notice informs the public that the Commissioner has exercised her discretionary authority under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(vi) and 8 CFR (j)(1)(vi) for this fiscal year. Accordingly, any F or J nonimmigrant whose employer has filed a timely request for change of nonimmigrant status to that of an H-1B nonimmigrant alien whose petition was filed or will be filed before October 1, 2000, is considered to be in a valid nonimmigrant status until October 1, 2000, or until the date the Service adjudicates the change of status application. Pursuant to 8 CFR 248.1(b) and 214.1(c)(4), the term "timely filed" refers to an application for a change of nonimmigrant status filed prior to the expiration of the alien's period of authorized stay in the United States. This provision also applies to the dependents of the affected F and J nonimmigrant aliens. An alien affected by this provision may not work for the petitioning employer or otherwise engage in activities inconsistent with the terms and conditions of the alien's nonimmigrant classification prior to the date for which the Service approves the request for a change of status.

**May an F or J nonimmigrant whose stay is extended under this provision accept a hiring bonus before October 1, 2000?**

Yes. An F-1 or J-1 nonimmigrant alien may receive a signing bonus before the validity date of the H-1B petition. A signing bonus does not represent a salary or a reimbursement for services rendered and, as a result, may be accepted by the alien.

**Does the Fiscal Year 2000 cap include the cases that the Service approved in excess of the cap in Fiscal Year 1999?**

No. Any cases that the Service may have approved in excess of the Fiscal Year 1999 cap were not counted against the Fiscal Year 2000 cap. While the numerical cap for the H-1B visa category was exceeded in Fiscal Year 1999, the Service has not yet conclusively determined the exact amount of that discrepancy. The Service will publish a future notice in the **Federal Register** addressing how these cases will be treated once the exact amount of the H-1B discrepancy in Fiscal Year 1999 has been determined.

Dated: March 14, 2000.

**Doris Meissner,**

*Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Office of the Secretary**

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

March 13, 2000.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection requests (ICRs) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of each individual ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be

obtained by calling the Department of Labor. To obtain documentation for BLS, ETA, PWBA, and OASAM contact Karin Kurz ((202) 219-5096 ext. 159 or by E-mail to Kurz-Karin@dol.gov). To obtain documentation for ESA, MSHA, OSHA, and VETS contact Darrin King ((202) 219-5096 ext. 151 or by E-Mail to King-Darrin@dol.gov)

Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for BLS, DM, ESA, ETA, MSHA, OSHA, PWBA, or VETS, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 ((202) 395-7316), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB 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 submission of responses.
- Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.  
*Title:* Qualification and Certification Program.  
*OMB Number:* 1219-0069 Extension.  
*Frequency:* On Occasion.  
*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.  
*Number of Respondents:* 611.  
*Estimated Time Per Respondent:*

Form	Total respondents	Estimated average time per respondent (in minutes)	Burden hours
5000-4 .....	578	21	202
5000-7 .....	33	19	11
Total .....	611	20	213

*Total Burden Hours:* 213.  
*Total Annualized Capital/startup Costs:* \$0.

*Total Annual (operating/maintaining):* \$202.

*Description:* Persons performing tasks and certain required examinations at coal mines which are related to miner

safety and health, and which require specialized experience, are required to be either "certified" or "qualified". Forms for Qualification and Certification may be downloaded in Portable Document Format (PDF) at: [www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov).

**Ira L. Mills,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4510-43-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Submission of OMB Review; Comment Request

March 14, 2000.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection requests (ICRs) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of each individual ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor. To obtain documentation for BLS, ETA, PWBA, and OASAM contact Karin Kurz ((202) 219-5096 ext. 159 or by E-mail to [Kurz-Karin@dol.gov](mailto:Kurz-Karin@dol.gov)). To obtain documentation for ESA, MSHA, OSHA, and VETS contact Darrin King ((202) 219-5096 ext. 151 or by E-Mail to [King-Darrin@dol.gov](mailto:King-Darrin@dol.gov)).

Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for BLS, DM, ESA, ETA, MSHA, OSHA, PWBA, or VETS, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 ((202) 395-7316), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB 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 submission of responses.

*Agency:* Employment Standards Administration.

*Title:* Optional Use Payroll Form

Under the Davis-Bacon Act.

*OMB Number:* 1215-0149.

*Frequency:* Weekly.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Federal Government; and State, Local or Tribal Government

*Number of Respondents:* 106,960.

*Estimated Time Per response:* 56 minutes.

*Total Burden Hours:* 9,200,000.

*Total Annualized capital/startup costs:* \$40.

*Total annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services):* \$354,000.

*Description:* Report is used by contractors to certify payrolls in accordance with requirements of Copeland and Davis-Bacon Acts, attesting that proper wage rates and fringe benefits were paid; reviewed by contracting agencies to verify that rates are legal and that employees are properly classified.

**Ira L. Mills,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4510-27-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### 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 pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies 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.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics 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.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section of this notice on or before May 22, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Sytrina D. Toon, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3255, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212, telephone number 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sytrina D. Toon, BLS Clearance Officer, telephone number 202-691-7628. (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Proposed Collection

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Housing Survey Computer Assisted Data Collection (CADC). A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

##### II. Background

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the only index compiled by the U.S. Government that is designed to measure changes in the purchasing power of the urban consumer's dollar. The CPI is most widely used as a measure of inflation, and serves as an indicator of the effectiveness of Government economic policy. It also is used as a deflator of other economic series, that is, to adjust other series for price changes and to translate these series into inflation-free dollars.