

including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by March 18, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: Office of Airline Information, K-25, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, fax No. (202) 366-3383 or e-mail [bernard.stankus@bts.gov](mailto:bernard.stankus@bts.gov).

*Comments:* Comments should identify the OMB # 2138-0013. Persons wishing the Department to acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments on OMB # 2138-0013. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-25, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4387.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Approval No.:* 2138-0013.

*Title:* Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Large Certificated Air Carriers.

*Form No.:* BTS Form 41.

*Type Of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Large certificated air carriers.

*Number of Respondents:* 75.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 4 hours per schedule, an average carrier may submit 90 schedules in one year.

*Total Annual Burden:* 27,000 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* Program uses for Form 41 data are as follows:

**Mail Rates**

The Department of Transportation sets and updates the international and mainline Alaska mail rates based on carrier aircraft operating expense, traffic and operational data. Form 41 cost data, especially fuel costs, terminal expenses, and line haul expenses are used in arriving at rate levels. DOT revises the established rates based on the percentage of unit cost changes in the carriers' operations. These updating procedures have resulted in the carriers receiving rates of compensation that more closely parallel their costs of providing mail service and contribute to the carriers' economic well-being.

**Submission of U.S. Carrier Data to ICAO**

As a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the United States is obligated to provide the

International Civil Aviation Organization with financial and statistical data on operations of U.S. air carriers. Over 99 percent of the data filed with ICAO is extracted from the carriers' Form 41 reports.

**Standard Foreign Fare and Rate Levels**

DOT uses Form 41 cost data to calculate the Standard Foreign Fare Level (SFFL) for passengers and the Standard Foreign Rate Level (SFRL) for freight. Any international fare or rate set below this fare level are automatically approved. Separate passenger fare and rate levels are established for Canadian, Atlantic, Latin America, and Pacific areas. In markets where liberal bilateral or multilateral pricing agreements provide for more competitive open market pricing, such agreements may take precedence over the SFFL and SFRL.

**Carrier Fitness**

Fitness determinations are made for both new entrants and established U.S. domestic carriers proposing a substantial change in operations. A portion of these applications consists of an operating plan for the first year (14 CFR part 204) and an associated projection of revenues and expenses. The carrier's operating costs, included in these projections, are compared against the cost data in Form 41 for a carrier or carriers with the same aircraft type and similar operating characteristics. Such a review validates the reasonableness of the carrier's operating plan.

Form 41 reports, particularly balance sheet reports and cash flow statements play a major role in the identification of vulnerable carriers. Data comparisons are made between current and past periods in order to assess the current financial position of the carrier. Financial trend lines are extended into the future to analyze the continued viability of the carrier. DOT reviews three areas of a carrier's operation: (1) The qualifications of its management team, (2) its disposition to comply with laws and regulations, and (3) its financial posture. DOT must determine whether or not a carrier has sufficient financial resources to conduct its operations without imposing undue risk on the traveling public. Moreover, once a carrier is operating, DOT is required to monitor its continuing fitness.

Senior DOT officials must be kept fully informed as to all current and developing economic issues affecting the airline industry. In preparing financial conditions reports or status reports on a particular airline, financial

and traffic data are analyzed. Briefing papers may use the same information.

**War Air Service Program (Emergency Preparedness)**

Under the War Air Service Program (WASP), FAA develops an official airline guide to establish air carrier boarding priorities in the event of a national emergency. The inventory of aircraft available for WASP equals the total aircraft fleet operated by certificated air carriers less the number of the largest wide-body aircraft that are allocated to the Civil Reserve Aircraft Fleet Program. Data on air carrier aircraft inventories, plus interim updates of acquisitions and retirements are used to assess the air transportation capabilities of the U.S. airline industry. This assessment is used in developing plans for emergency utilization of U.S. airline industry aircraft and resources in the event of a national emergency and/or mobilization.

**Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act**

DOT is using Form 41 financial data to establish benchmarks to assess the reasonableness of air carrier claims under the Stabilization Act.

**Donald W. Bright,**

*Assistant Director, Airline Information,  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 02-1158 Filed 1-15-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

**Internal Revenue Service**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 2553**

**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 2553, Election by a Small Business Corporation.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before March 18, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to George Freeland, Internal Revenue Service, room 5575, 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 Allan Hopkins, (202) 622-6665, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Election by a Small Business Corporation.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0146.

*Form Number:* 2553.

*Abstract:* Form 2553 is filed by a qualifying corporation to elect to be an "S" Corporation as defined in Internal Revenue Code section 1361. The information obtained is necessary to determine if the election should be accepted by the IRS. When the election is accepted, the qualifying corporation is classified as an "S" Corporation and the corporation's income is taxed to the shareholders of the corporation.

*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:* Businesses and Farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 500,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 15 hrs., 29 min.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 7,745,000.

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: January 5, 2002.

**George Freeland,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 02-896 Filed 1-15-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

**United States Mint**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**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 United States Mint within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the United States Mint Generic Clearance Package for OMB.

Written comments should be received on or before March 18, 2002, to be assured of consideration. Direct all written comments to Philip Neisser, Acting Director, Office of Business Alignment, United States Mint, 801 9th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20220; 202.772.7323;

*Pneisser@usmint.treas.gov.*

Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Melissa Ferring, Communications Specialist, Office of Business Alignment, United States Mint, 801 9th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20220; 202.772.7320; *Mferring@usmint.treas.gov.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* United States Mint Generic Clearance Package.

*OMB Number:* 1525-0012.

*Abstract:* This is a request for a reinstatement of a three year Generic Clearance to conduct customer satisfaction surveys for the United States Mint.

*Current Actions:* The United States Mint conducts customer service surveys and focus groups to determine the level of satisfaction from the Mint customers. These actions allow the Mint access to the needs and desires of customers for future products and more efficient, economical services. The United States Mint currently has a Generic Clearance with OMB which allows expedition of the customer satisfaction surveys and focus groups. The United States Mint is requesting another three year reinstatement of this Generic Clearance.

*Type of Review:* This is a Reinstatement submission, with the only changes being that the necessary survey requests are far fewer than in the past three years.

*Affected Public:* The affected public includes the serious and casual numismatic collectors, dealers and people in the numismatic business and the general public or one time only customers.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* The estimated number of respondents for the next three years is 10,390. With a total estimated number of burden hours of 4,659.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* The estimated number of annual burden hours is 1,553.

**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.

Dated: January 4, 2002.

**Philip Neisser,**

*Acting Director, Office of Business Alignment, United States Mint.*

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