

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Surface Transportation Board****Indexing the Annual Operating Revenues of Railroads**

This Notice sets forth the annual inflation adjusting index numbers which are used to adjust gross annual operating revenues of railroads for classification purposes. This indexing methodology will insure that regulated carriers are classified based on real business expansion and not from the effects of inflation. Classification is important because it determines the extent of reporting for each carrier.

The railroad's inflation factors are based on the annual average Railroad's Freight Price Index. This index is developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This index will be used to deflate revenues for comparison with established revenue thresholds.

The base year for railroads is 1991. The inflation index factors are presented as follows:

**RAILROAD FREIGHT INDEX**

Year	Index	Deflator percent
1991 .....	409.50	<sup>1</sup> 100.00
1992 .....	411.80	99.45
1993 .....	415.50	98.55
1994 .....	418.80	97.70
1995 .....	418.17	97.85
1996 .....	417.46	98.02
1997 .....	419.67	97.50
1998 .....	424.54	96.38
1999 .....	423.01	96.72
2000 .....	428.64	95.45
2001 .....	436.48	93.73

<sup>1</sup> Ex Parte No. 492, *Montana Rail Link, Inc., and Wisconsin Central Ltd., Joint Petition For Rulemaking With Respect To 49 CFR 1201, 8 I.C.C. 2d 625 (1992)*, raised the revenue classification level for Class I railroads from \$50 million to \$250 million (1991 dollars), effective for the reporting year beginning January 1, 1992. The Class II threshold was also revised to reflect a rebasing from \$10 million (1978 dollars) to \$20 million (1991 dollars).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Decker (202)565-1531. [Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.]

Decided: July 19, 2002.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams,  
Secretary.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-18850 Filed 7-26-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Internal Revenue Service****Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 1099-LTC**

**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 1099-LTC, Long-term Care and Accelerated Death Benefits.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before September 27, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 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, or through the internet (*Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov*), Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Long-Term Care and Accelerated Death Benefits.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1519.

*Form Number:* 1099-LTC.

*Abstract:* Under the terms of Internal Revenue Code sections 7702B and 101g, qualified long-term care and accelerated death benefits paid to chronically ill individuals are treated as amounts received for expenses incurred for medical care. Amounts received on a

per diem basis in excess of \$175 per day are taxable. Code section 6050Q requires all such amounts to be reported.

*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 or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households, not-for-profit institutions, and state, local or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 79,047.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 14 min.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 18,181.

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: July 16, 2002.

**Glenn Kirkland,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 02-19125 Filed 7-26-02; 8:45 am]

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