

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Pub. L. 106-554) directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue government-wide guidelines for Federal agencies to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information disseminated by Federal agencies. In response, OMB issued government-wide guidelines on February 22, 2002 (67 FR 8452), as revised on March 4, 2002 (67 FR 9797), that require Federal agencies that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) to develop and publish their own information quality guidelines along with administrative mechanisms to allow persons to request correction of information.

As directed by OMB (67 FR 8452), SSA prepared section 515 draft information quality guidelines and related material and made them available to the public for comment on April 29, 2002 (67 FR 21009). In response to comments, SSA has revised its section 515 information quality guidelines and mechanisms for seeking correction of information. The revised material has been approved by OMB as meeting the requirements established in the OMB government-wide guidelines.

The SSA information quality guidelines and related information are on the agency's Web site at <http://www.ssa.gov/515>. The comments that SSA received on the earlier draft guidelines along with those draft section 515 guidelines and related material are available at <http://policy.ssa.gov/redir2.nsf/closed?OpenPage>.

The SSA received comments from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and from two organizations that are concerned with regulatory affairs. All three comment packages were generic in that they cut across all agencies and provided general guidance and direction. We considered all comments received and discuss the most significant ones below.

One issue addressed in all comment packages concerned the scope of applicability for these guidelines. One organization expressed concern that the scope of agency guidelines was too narrow, and another organization expressed concern that the scope of agency guidelines was too broad. We reviewed the SSA guidelines to ensure that they are consistent with the intent and scope of the statute, with the OMB government-wide information quality guidelines, and the guidance provided by OMB. In response to an OMB comment, we added a statement noting that SSA's section 515 information

quality guidelines conform to the guidance, scope of applicability, and intent of the government-wide quality guidelines issued by the OMB. We also added a statement noting that section 515 guidelines apply to information disseminated on or after October 1, 2002.

One comment suggested that each agency's information quality guidelines state that agency submissions for information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act will include the statement that data to be collected shall conform to section 515 information quality guidelines when appropriate. We added a statement to the SSA guidelines to that effect. In response to another comment, we added a statement establishing criteria for reproducibility of information collected in SSA statistical surveys.

Several comments focused on our procedures to seek correction of information under section 515. In response to one comment, we added a statement noting that these procedures do not replace other established processes for challenges to disseminated information. In response to another comment, we will request that persons seeking correction of information under section 515 indicate how they are affected by the allegedly erroneous information. We also provided more details about the appeals process and set time limits for SSA to respond to initial requests and appeals.

Dated: September 23, 2002.

Paul N. Van de Water,
Acting Deputy Commissioner for Policy.
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4143]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of the Executive Director, Program Review Staff; 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form DS-2038, Application for Certificate of International Educational Character; OMB Control Number 1405-0122

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. This process is conducted in accordance

with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal to be submitted to OMB:

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Originating Office: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs ECA-IIP/EX/PR.

Title of Information Collection: Application for Certificate of International Educational Character.

Frequency: Occasionally.

Form Number: DS-2038.

Respondents: Members of the public who seek a certificate for audio-visual material.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8.

Average Hours Per Response: .4.

Total Estimated Burden: 24 hours.

- Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:
- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency.

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to Leslie M. Nolan, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, 301 4th Street, SW., room 534, Washington, DC 20547, who may be reached on 202-205-9076.

Dated: July 9, 2002.

James D. Whitten,
Executive Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Week Ending September 20, 2002

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within