

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 3, 2004.

Kathy A. Weiner,

Director, Office of Information Technology and Support Systems, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-25135 Filed 11-10-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From Requirements

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroad has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR Part 236 as detailed below.

Docket Number FRA-2004-19336

Applicant: Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, Mr. William G. Peterson, Director Signal Engineering, 4515 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66106.

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) seeks relief from the requirements of the Rules, Standards and Instructions, 49 CFR, Part 236, Section 236.110, to the extent that each test record, need not be signed by the person making the inspection or test. In lieu of the signature, the BNSF proposes to implement an electronic system for recording and maintaining signal inspection records, that uniquely identify the person as the author of the record with a PIN number or password. Once a record is entered and verified, it cannot be modified. In conjunction with this relief, the BNSF also requests the utilization of an electronic system for recording and maintaining applicable inspection and test records as defined in 49 CFR, Part 234, subject to approval by the Associate Administrator for Safety, as required by Section 234.273. A pilot program is planned for approximately 100 signal employees located in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Texas, and Louisiana.

Applicant's justification for relief: The BNSF believes that the electronic system will serve the best interest of the BNSF and the Federal and State Inspection authorities that are required to inspect records. The BNSF also anticipates this system will provide many benefits, including: improved availability of test records, improved

management reporting of compliance, improved consistency for filing records, and a reduction in the need for paper documentation.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made, and include a concise statement of the interest of the party in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by the docket number and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PI-401, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by the FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FRA wishes to inform all potential commenters that anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FRA expects to be able to determine these matters without an oral hearing. However, if a specific request for an oral hearing is accompanied by a showing that the party is unable to adequately present his or her position by written statements, an application may be set for public hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 1, 2004.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.

[FR Doc. 04-25136 Filed 11-10-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Reports, Forms and Record Keeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period was published on July 23, 2004 (69 FR 44077).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 13, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention NHTSA Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Kido, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel (NCC-111), (202) 366-5263, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 5219, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Title: Confidential Business Information.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Form Number: This collection of information uses no standard forms.

OMB Control Number: 2127-0025.

Frequency: Submission of information pursuant to this regulation will depend on the frequency with which a given entity, such as a manufacturer of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, submits information that the entity wishes the agency to withhold as confidential, generally pursuant to Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552.

Affected Public: This collection of information would apply to any person who seeks to have the agency treat as confidential information submitted to the agency either voluntarily or pursuant to a mandatory information request issued by the agency. Thus, the collection of information could apply to

any of the entities over which the agency exercises regulatory authority. Recent trends lead the agency to estimate that NHTSA will receive approximately 450 requests for confidential treatment in 2004 and subsequent years. Large manufacturers make the vast majority of requests for confidential treatment.

Abstract: NHTSA's Confidential Business Information (CBI) rule, coupled with case law, has governed the submission of requests for confidential treatment of information for over 20 years. Recently, NHTSA amended the regulation to simplify and update it to reflect developments in the law and to address the application of the rule to the early warning reporting requirements. See 68 FR 44209 (July 28, 2003) and 69 FR 21409 (April 21, 2004).

Estimated Annual Burden: Using the above estimate of approximately 450 requests for confidentiality per year, with an estimated eight hours of preparation to collect and provide the information, at an assumed rate of \$25 an hour, the annual estimated cost of collecting and preparing the information necessary for 450 complete requests for confidential treatment is about \$90,000 (8 hours of preparation × 450 requests × \$25). Adding in a postage cost of \$1732.50 (450 requests at a cost of \$3.85 for postage), we estimate that it will cost \$91,732.50 a year for persons to prepare and submit the information necessary to satisfy the confidential business information provisions of 49 CFR part 512.

Requesters are not required to keep copies of any records or reports submitted to us. As a result, the cost imposed to keep records would be zero hours and zero costs.

Number of Respondents: We estimate that there will be approximately 450 requests per year.

Summary of the Collection of Information: Any entity seeking confidential treatment for information submitted to the agency will be required to request confidential treatment from the agency and to justify that request. To obtain confidential treatment of submitted information, the submitting entity must comply with the requirements in NHTSA's CBI regulation and satisfy the requirements for one of the exemptions provided under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(b).

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention NHTSA Desk Officer.

Comments Are Invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A Comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued on November 5, 2004.

Jacqueline Glassman,
Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 04-25137 Filed 11-10-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Reports, Forms and Record Keeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period was published on August 10, 2004 (69 FR 48562-48563).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 13, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie Parker, NHTSA, NVS-220, Washington, DC 20590, phone 202-366-1768.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Title: 49 CFR 556, Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance.

OMB Number: 2127-0045.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection which has expired.

Abstract: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's statute at 49 U.S.C. 30118, Notification of defects

and noncompliance, and 49 U.S.C. 30120, Remedies for defects and noncompliance, generally requires manufacturers of motor vehicles and items of replacement equipment to conduct a notification and remedy campaign (recall) when their products are determined to contain a safety-related defect or a noncompliance with a Federal motor vehicle safety standard (FMVSS). Those sections require a manufacturer of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment to notify distributors, dealers, and purchasers if any of the manufacturer's products are determined to either contain a safety-related defect or fail to comply with an applicable FMVSS. The manufacturer is under a concomitant obligation to remedy such defect or noncompliance. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Exemptions, a manufacturer may seek an exemption from these notification and remedy requirements on the basis that the defect or noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. NHTSA exercised this statutory authority to excuse inconsequential defects or noncompliances when it promulgated 49 CFR Part 566, Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance. This regulation establishes the procedures for manufacturers to submit exemption petitions to the agency and the procedures the agency will use in evaluating those petitions. Part 556 allows the agency to ensure that inconsequentiality petitions are both properly substantiated and efficiently processed.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit entities.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 200.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention NHTSA Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is most effective if