

Dated: December 9, 2004.  
By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

**Richard M. Riccobono,**  
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 04-27397 Filed 12-14-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of Thrift Supervision

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request—Minority Thrift Certification Form

**AGENCY:** Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**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 comment on proposed and continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507. The Office of Thrift Supervision within the Department of the Treasury will submit the proposed information collection requirement described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. Today, OTS is soliciting public comments on its proposal to extend this information collection.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before February 14, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, referring to the collection by title of the proposal or by OMB approval number, to Information Collection Comments, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552; send a facsimile transmission to (202) 906-6518; or send an e-mail to [infocollection.comments@ots.treas.gov](mailto:infocollection.comments@ots.treas.gov). OTS will post comments and the related index on the OTS Internet Site at <http://www.ots.treas.gov>. In addition, interested persons may inspect comments at the Public Reading Room, 1700 G Street, NW., by appointment. To make an appointment, call (202) 906-5922, send an e-mail to [publicinfo@ots.treas.gov](mailto:publicinfo@ots.treas.gov), or send a facsimile transmission to (202) 906-7755.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You can request additional information about this proposed information collection from Louise Batdorf, Analyst, Consumer Protection and Specialized Programs, (202) 906-7087, Office of

Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** OTS may not conduct or sponsor an information collection, and respondents are not required to respond to an information collection, unless the information collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. As part of the approval process, we invite comments on the following information collection.

Comments should address one or more of the following points:

- a. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of OTS;
- b. The accuracy of OTS's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection;
- c. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
- d. Ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

We will summarize the comments that we receive and include them in the OTS request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. In this notice, OTS is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection.

*Title of Proposal:* Minority Thrift Certification Form.

*OMB Number:* 1550-0096.

*Form Number:* OTS Form 1661.

*Regulation requirement:* N/A.

*Description:* This information is needed to help OTS maintain a reliable source of information regarding the universe of minority-owned thrifts, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 308 of FIRREA.

*Type of Review:* Renewal.

*Affected Public:* Savings Associations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 26.

*Estimated Burden Hours per Response:* .5 hours.

*Estimated Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Total Burden:* 13 hours.

*Clearance Officer:* Marilyn K. Burton, (202) 906-6467, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552.

*OMB Reviewer:* Mark Menchik, (202) 395-3176, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

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**James E. Gilleran,**  
Director.

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Reasonable Charges for Inpatient DRG and SNF Medical Services; 2005 Calendar Year Update

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Section 17.101 of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations sets forth the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical regulations concerning "reasonable charges" for medical care or services provided or furnished by VA to a veteran:

- For a nonservice-connected disability for which the veteran is entitled to care (or the payment of expenses of care) under a health plan contract;
- For a nonservice-connected disability incurred incident to the veteran's employment and covered under a worker's compensation law or plan that provides reimbursement or indemnification for such care and services; or
- For a nonservice-connected disability incurred as a result of a motor vehicle accident in a State that requires automobile accident reparations insurance.

The regulations include methodologies for establishing billed amounts for the following types of charges: Acute inpatient facility charges; skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charges; partial hospitalization facility charges; outpatient facility charges; physician and other professional charges, including professional charges for anesthesia services and dental services; pathology and laboratory charges; observation care facility charges; ambulance and other emergency transportation charges; and charges for durable medical equipment, drugs, injectables, and other medical services, items, and supplies identified by Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II codes. The regulations also provide that data for calculating actual charge amounts at individual VA facilities based on these methodologies will either be published in a notice in the **Federal Register** or will be posted on the Internet site of the Veterans Health Administration Chief Business Office, currently at <http://www.va.gov/cbo>, under "Charge Data." Certain of these charges are hereby updated as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. These changes are effective on January 1, 2005.

When charges for medical care or services provided or furnished at VA