publication of both Respondent’s identity and its data, submission of the information to agencies outside BTS for review, analysis and possible use in regulatory and other administrative matters.

Donald W. Bright,
Assistant Director, Airline Information,
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

[FR Doc. 04–27589 Filed 12–16–04; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Agency Information Collection;
Activity Under OMB Review;
Submission of Audit Reports—Part 248

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics invites the general public, industry and other governmental parties to comment on the continuing need for and usefulness of BTS requiring U.S. large certificated air carriers to submit a true and complete of its annual audit that is made by an independent public accountant. If a carrier does not have an annual audit, the carrier must file a statement that no audit has been performed. Comments are requested concerning whether the audit reports are needed by BTS and DOT; BTS accurately estimated the reporting burden; there are other ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and there are ways to minimize reporting burden, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by February 15, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: Office of Airline Information, K–14, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001, fax no. 366–3383 or e-mail bernard.stankus@bts.gov.

Comments: Comments should identify the OMB # 2138–0039. 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 # 2138–0004. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval No.: 2138–0004.

Title: Submission of Audit Reports—Part 248.

Form No.: None.

Type Of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Large certificated air carriers.

Number of Respondents: 84.

Number of Responses: 84.

Total Annual Burden: 21 hours.

Needs and Uses: BTS collects independent audited financial reports from U.S. certificated air carriers. Carriers not having an annual audit must file a statement that no such audit has been performed. In lieu of the audit report, BTS will accept the annual report submitted to the stockholders. The audited reports are needed by the Department of Transportation as (1) a means to monitor an air carrier’s continuing fitness to operate, (2) reference material used by analysts in examining foreign route cases (3) reference material used by analyst in examining proposed mergers, acquisitions and consolidations, (4) a means whereby BTS sends a copy of the report to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in fulfillment of a United States treaty obligation, and (5) corroboration of a carrier’s Form 41 filings.

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note), requires a statistical agency to clearly identify information it collects for non-statistical purposes. BTS hereby notifies the respondents and the public that BTS uses the information it collects under this OMB approval for non-statistical purposes including, but not limited to, publication of both Respondent’s identity and its data, submission of the information to agencies outside BTS for review, analysis and possible use in regulatory and other administrative matters.

Donald W. Bright,
Assistant Director, Airline Information,
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

[FR Doc. 04–27590 Filed 12–16–04; 8:45 am]