

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment Standards Administration****Proposed Collection; Comment Request****ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: Payment of Compensation Without Award (LS-206). A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this Notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before July 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Ms. Hazel M. Bell, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S-3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-0418, fax (202) 693-1451, e-mail bell.hazel@dol.gov. Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) administers the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA). The Act provides benefits to workers injured in maritime employment on the navigable waters of the United States or in an adjoining area customarily used by an employer in loading, unloading, repairing or building a vessel. Under Sections 914(b) and (c) of the Longshore Act, a self-insured employer or insurance carrier is required to pay compensation within 14 days after the employer has knowledge of the injury or death. Upon making the first payment, the employer or carrier shall

immediately notify the district director of payment. Form LS-206 has been designated as the proper form on which report of first payment is to be made. The LS-206 is also used by OWCP district offices to determine the payment status of a given case. This information collection is currently approved for use through March 31, 2006.

II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions

The Department of Labor seeks the approval of the extension of this information collection in order to carry out its responsibility to meet the statutory requirements to provide compensation or death benefits under the Act to workers covered under the Act.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Employment Standards Administration.

Titles: Payment of Compensation Without Award.

OMB Number: 1215-0022.

Agency Numbers: LS-206.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Total Respondents: 700.

Total Annual responses: 24,500.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 6,125.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Frequency: On Occasion.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$10,902.50.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of

Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 19, 2005.

Bruce Bohanon,

Chief, Branch of Management Review and Internal Control, Division of Financial Management, Office of Management, Administration and Planning, Employment Standards Administration.

[FR Doc. E5-2638 Filed 5-24-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-CF-P

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DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before July 25, 2005.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs administers the Federal Black Lung Workers' Compensation Program. The enabling regulations of the Black