Part IV

Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records; Notice
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notification of proposed altered system of records.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposes to alter System of Records, 09–20–0147, “Occupational Health Epidemiological Studies and EEOICPA Program Records, HHS/CDC/NIOSH” In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is publishing notice of the amendment of the categories of individuals covered by the system of records; the categories of records; the authorities; and the purposes for maintenance of the system of records. In addition, we are proposing to add new routine uses. The purpose of these modifications is to provide notice that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is complying with the Privacy Act in executing its responsibilities under the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 found at Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300mm—300mm-61 (Title XXXIII). To reflect these changes, NIOSH is also revising the name of the system of records to “Occupational Health Epidemiological Studies, EEOICPA Program Records and WTC Health Program Records, HHS/CDC/NIOSH.” The entire resulting system of records notice, as amended, appears below.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 27, 2011. In order to comply with the tight statutory deadline for implementation of the Zadroga Act, the changes in this system of records notice are effective immediately, except for the new routine uses, which will become effective 30 days from the date of publication unless CDC receives comments that require alterations to this notice. HHS has requested a waiver of the OMB review period in accordance with Appendix 1 of Circular A–130.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments, identified by the Privacy Act System of Records Number 09–20–0147, to the following address: HHS/CDC/NIOSH, Senior Official for Privacy (SOP), Office of the Chief Information Security Officer (OCIISO), 4770 Buford Highway—M/S: F–35, Atlanta, GA 30341.


All relevant comments received will be posted publicly to http://www.regulations.gov without change, including any personal or proprietary information provided. An electronic version of the draft is available to download at http://www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly E. Walker, Chief Privacy Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway—M/S: F–35, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, (770) 488–8660. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CDC proposes to alter an existing system of records: 09–20–0147, “Occupational Health Epidemiological Studies and EEOICPA Program Records, HHS/CDC/NIOSH,” last published at 76 FR 4463, January 25, 2011, to address World Trade Center Health Program records needed to carry out the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm—300mm-61) (the Act). Under the WTC Health Program, the WTC Program Administrator is responsible for enrolling qualified individuals who responded to the New York City, Shanksville, PA, and Pentagon disaster sites and to qualified survivors of the New York City attacks; and to provide monitoring and treatment to eligible individuals for WTC related and WTC associated health conditions. Previously, a health screening program for responders began in 2002 and was extended funding by Congress and implemented as a screening and care program under cooperative agreements with certain multidisciplinary clinical centers experienced with the WTC responder population. The program was again expanded in 2008 to provide initial health evaluations, diagnostic and treatment services for residents, students, and others in the community affected by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City. The Zadroga Act establishes the WTC Health Program within HHS, and so the program will assume the functions and goals of the cooperative agreement programs. Individuals who are eligible and qualified as WTC responders or screening-eligible and certified-eligible WTC survivors may receive an initial health evaluation, medical monitoring and treatment under the new WTC Health Program. Under this new authority, NIOSH will, for the first time, be directly responsible for applications for eligibility and provide for medical care under contracts. The changes to the system of records will enable NIOSH’s WTC Health Program to fulfill its new responsibilities under Title XXXIII.

The following amendments are made to this system of records:

System Name is changed to the “Occupational Health Epidemiological Studies, EEOICPA Program Records and WTC Health Program Records, HHS/ CDC/NIOSH.”

The System Location is being changed to add a new location for the WTC Health Program Records.

Categories of individuals covered by the system of records is expanded by including the individuals enrolled or claiming eligibility in the WTC Health program, and by deleting the term “working” when describing the affected population, so as to include WTC survivors as well. Categories of records is amended by adding the a description of records relating to eligibility and qualification for enrollment in the WTC Health program and records related to provision of treatment of enrollees for WTC related and WTC associated health conditions under the WTC Health Program.

The authority and purpose for maintenance of the system of records are amended to include the new authority in the James Zadroga Health and Compensation Act of 2010, Public Health Service Act, Title XXXIII, “World Trade Center Health Program” (42 U.S.C. 300mm—300mm-61), and to explain this additional purpose.

We have added one routine use of general applicability regarding litigation. We are taking the opportunity to use standard language recommended by OMB for use in litigation that applies to all records of this system of records. We are also adding one routine use of
general applicability regarding disclosure to contractors.

Two new routine uses are added that apply only to the WTC Health Program records. The first permits disclosure of information to enable coordination of benefits with federal, state, local or other workers compensation programs, or with public or private health plans, for which the beneficiary might also be eligible.

One of the provisions of the Zadroga Act is that individuals who received medical monitoring and treatment benefits from the existing medical monitoring and treatment program prior to July 1, 2011, continue to be qualified for the new program. However, such an individual is not qualified to enroll in the new WTC Health Program if the individual’s name is on the terrorist watch list. In order to implement this provision, NIOSH is publishing a second new routine use that would permit disclosure of certain personal identifying information to the Department of Justice and its contractors to provide terrorist screening support in accordance with this statutory obligation.

The routine uses of the original system of records notice continue to be in effect. We have reorganized the routine uses to make clear which ones apply to which programs, and which are of general applicability.

The storage and retrieval section is amended to make clear that records are retrieved by individual health care identifier number.

The Retention and disposal section is changed to add a new retention and disposal period for WTC Health Program records.

The System manager(s) and address section is amended to add a new system manager and address for the WTC Health Program records.

CDC filed a modified or altered system of records report with the Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs. CDC, has also filed a report with the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and has requested waiver of OMB’s usual review period in accordance with Appendix I of OMB Circular A—130.

A forthcoming rulemaking implementing the provisions of the Zadroga Act will appear in the Federal Register.

SYSTEM NAME:
Occupational Health Epidemiological Studies and EEOICPA Program Records and WTC Health Program Records, HHS/CDC/NIOSH.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:
None.

SYSTEM LOCATION:
WTC Health Program, NIOSH, Century Center Boulevard, Building 2400, Mail Stop E–74, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluation, and Field Studies (DSHEFS), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226.

Division of Respiratory Disease Studies (DRDS), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, WV 20505–2888.

Pittsburgh Research Laboratory, NIOSH, 626 Cochran Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

Spokane Research Laboratory, NIOSH, 315 E. Montgomery Avenue, Spokane, WA 99207.

Office of Compensation Analysis and Support (OCAS), NIOSH, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

Federal Records Center, 3150 Bertywynn Drive, Dayton, OH 45439.

Data are also occasionally located at contractor sites as studies are developed, data collected, and reports written. A list of contractor sites where individually identifiable data are currently located is available upon request to the system manager. Also, occasionally data may be located at the facilities of collaborating researchers where analyses are performed, data collected and reports written. A list of these facilities is available upon request to the system manager. Data may be located only at those facilities that have an adequate data security program and the collaborating researcher must return the data to NIOSH or destroy individual identifiers at the conclusion of the project.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:
That segment of the population exposed to physical and/or chemical agents or other workplace hazards that may damage the human body in any way. Some examples are: (1) Organic carcinogens; (2) inorganic carcinogens; (3) mucosal or dermal irritants; (4) fibrogenic materials; (5) acute toxic agents including sensitizing agents; (6) neurotoxic agents; (7) mutagenic (male and female) and teratogenic agents; (8) bio-accumulating non-carcinogen agents; (9) chronic vascular disease-causing agents; and (10) ionizing radiation. Also included are those individuals in the general population who have been selected as control groups. Workers employed by the Department of Energy and its predecessor agencies and their contractors are also included, as are cancer-related claimants under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA). Individuals enrolled in or otherwise claiming eligibility and qualification for enrollment in the WTC Health Program created under Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:
Physical exams, sputum cytology results, questionnaires, urine test records, X-rays, medical history, pulmonary function test records, medical disability forms, blood test records, hearing test results, smoking history, occupational histories, previous and current employment records, union membership records, driver’s license data, demographic information, exposure history information and test results are examples of the records in this system. The specific types of records collected and maintained are determined by the needs of the individual study. Also included are records of cancer-related claimants under EEOICPA. Also included are applications for enrollment in the WTC Health Program and, once enrolled, screening and medical records, and financial records related to payment and reimbursements for care under the WTC program.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

PURPOSE(S):
Studies carried out under this system are to evaluate mortality and morbidity of occupationally related diseases and injuries, to determine their causes, and to lead toward prevention of occupationally related diseases and
injuries in the future. EEOICPA records are maintained to enable NIOSH to fulfill its dose reconstruction responsibilities under the Act. WTC Health Program records in this system are maintained and used to enable NIOSH to fulfill WTC Program Administrator responsibilities make determinations about eligibility and qualification, provide for medical care, pay for that care, and coordinate with other health benefit programs under Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300mm—300mm-61.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

In the event of litigation where the defendant is: (a) The Department, any component of the Department, or any employee of the Department in his or her official capacity; (b) the United States where the Department determines that the claim, if successful, is likely to directly affect the operations of the Department or any of its components; or (c) any Department employee in his or her individual capacity where the Department of Justice has agreed to represent such employee, for example, in defending a claim against the Public Health Service based upon an individual’s mental or physical condition and alleged to have arisen because of activities of the Public Health Service in connection with such individual, disclosure may be made to the Department of Justice to enable that Department to present an effective defense, provided that such disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the records were collected.

Records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when (1) HHS, or any component thereof; or (2) any employee of HHS in his or her official capacity; or (3) any employee of HHS in his or her individual capacity where the Department of Justice or HHS has agreed to represent the employee; or (4) the United States, is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and the use of such records by the Department of Justice is deemed by HHS to be relevant and necessary to the litigation; provided, however, that in each case it has been determined that the disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the records were collected.

Records may be disclosed to a contractor performing or working on a contract for HHS and who has a need to have access to the information in the performance of the responsibilities or activities of the HHS in accordance with law and with the contract. The contractor is required to comply with the applicable provisions of the Privacy Act.

Records subject to the Privacy Act are disclosed to private firms for data entry, scientific support services, nosology coding, computer systems analysis and computer programming services. The contractors promptly return data entry records after the contracted work is completed. The contractors are required to maintain Privacy Act safeguards.

Certain diseases or exposures may be reported to State and/or local health departments where the State has a legally constituted reporting program for communicable diseases and which provides for the confidentiality of the information.

Disclosure of records or portions of records may be made to a Member of Congress or a Congressional staff member submitting a verified request involving an individual who is entitled to the information and has requested assistance from the Member or staff member. The Member of Congress or Congressional staff member must provide a copy of the individual’s written request for assistance.

Disclosure may be made to NIOSH collaborating researchers (e.g., NIOSH contractors, grantees, cooperative agreement holders, or other Federal or State scientists) in order to accomplish the research purpose for which the records are collected. The collaborating researchers must agree in writing to comply with the confidentiality provisions of the Privacy Act and NIOSH must have determined that the researchers’ data security procedures will protect confidentiality.

Disclosure of epidemiologic study records pertaining to uranium workers may be made to the Department of Justice to be used in determining eligibility for compensation payments to the uranium workers or their survivors.

Records may be disclosed by CDC in connection with public health activities to the Social Security Administration for sources of locating information to accomplish the research or program purposes for which the records were collected.

The Following Routine Uses Apply Only to EEOICPA Program Records:

Disclosure of dose reconstructions, epidemiologic study records and employment and medical information pertaining to Department of Energy employees and other cancer-related claimants covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act may be made to the Department of Labor to be used in determining eligibility for compensation payments to such claimants and in defending its determinations under the Act.

Disclosure of personal identifying information associated with cancer-related claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act may be made to the Department of Energy, other federal agencies, other government or private entities and to private-sector employers to permit these entities to retrieve records required to reconstruct radiation doses and to enable NIOSH to evaluate petitions for inclusion in the Special Exposure Cohort.

Completed dose reconstruction reports for cancer-related claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act may be released to the Department of Energy...
and the Department of Labor to permit these entities to fulfill EEOICPA and HHS dose reconstruction regulation requirements to notify claimants of their dose reconstruction results.

Disclosure of personal identifying information associated with cancer-related claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act may be made to identified witnesses as designated by the Office of Compensation Analysis and Support to assist NIOSH in obtaining information required to complete the dose reconstruction process and to enable NIOSH to evaluate petitions for inclusion in the Special Exposure Cohort.

Records may also be disclosed when deemed desirable or necessary, to the Department of Justice, and/or the Department of Labor, to enable those Departments to effectively represent the Department of Health and Human Services and/or the Department of Labor in litigation involving the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA).

The Following Routine Uses Apply Only to WTC Health Program Records:

Disclosure to the Department of Justice and its contractors provide terrorist screening support in accordance with NIOSH’s statutory obligation to determine whether an individual is on the “terrorist watch list” as specified in Section 3311 and Section 3321 of the Zadroga Act and is eligible and qualified to be enrolled or certified in the WTC Health Program as specified by statute. Disclosure will be limited to only the information that is necessary to determine eligibility and qualification under the statute. The Department of Justice and its contractors will only use the information for the purpose of determining eligibility and qualification for the WTC Health Program and will not retain the information for longer than is necessary to accomplish that purpose. Personal identifying information needed for this screening process will be destroyed or returned to NIOSH once it is determined that an individual is not on the “terrorist watch list.”

Disclosure of personally identifying information to applicable entities for the purpose of reducing or recouping WTC Health Program payments made to individuals under a workers’ compensation law or plan of the United States, a State, or locality, or other work-related injury or illness benefit plan of the employer of such worker or public or private health plan as required under Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:
Manager files, card files, electronic computer tapes, disks, files and printouts, microfilm, microfiche, and other files as appropriate.

RETRIEVABILITY:
Name, assigned identification number, or social security number

SAFEGUARDS:
1. Authorized Users: A database software security package is utilized to control unauthorized access to the system. Access is granted to only a limited number of physicians, scientists, statisticians, and designated support staff or contractors, as authorized by the system manager to accomplish the stated purposes for which the data in this system have been collected.

2. Physical Safeguards: Hard copy records are kept in locked cabinets in locked rooms. Guard service in buildings provides screening of visitors. The limited access, secured computer room contains fire extinguishers and an overhead sprinkler system. Computer workstations and automated records are located in secured areas. Electronic anti-intrusion devices are in operation at the Federal Records Center.

3. Procedural Safeguards: Data sets are password protected and/or encrypted. Protection for computerized records both on the mainframe and the NIOSH Local Area Network (LAN) includes programmed verification of valid user identification code and password prior to logging on to the system, mandatory password changes, limited log-ins, virus protection, and user rights/file attribute restrictions. Password protection imposes user name and password log-in requirements to prevent unauthorized access. Each user name is assigned limited access rights to files and directories at varying levels to control file sharing. There are routine daily backup procedures and secure off-site storage is available for backup tapes. Additional safeguards may be built into the program by the system analyst as warranted by the sensitivity of the data.

Employees and contractor staff who maintain records are instructed to check with the system manager prior to making disclosures of data. When individually identified data are being used in a room, admittance at either government and contractor sites is restricted to specifically authorized personnel. Privacy Act provisions are included in contracts, and the Project Director, contract officers and project officers oversee compliance with these requirements. Upon completion of the contract, all data will be either returned to CDC or destroyed, as specified by the contract.

4. Implementation Guidelines: The safeguards outlined above are in accordance with the HHS Information Security Program Policy and FIPS Pub 200, “Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems.” Data maintained on CDC’s Mainframe and the NIOSH LAN are in compliment with OMB Circular A–130, Appendix III. Security is provided for information collection, processing, transmission, storage, and dissemination in general support systems and major applications.

Security is provided for information collection, processing, transmission, storage, and dissemination in general support systems and major applications. The CDC LAN currently operates under a Microsoft Windows Server and is in compliance with applicable security standards.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records are retained and disposed of according to the provisions of the CDC Electronic Records Control Schedule for NIOSH records. Research records are maintained in the agency for three years after the close of the study. Records transferred to the Federal Records Center when no longer needed for evaluation and analysis are destroyed after 75 years for epidemiologic studies, unless needed for further study. Records from health hazard evaluations will be retained at least 20 years. EEOICPA program records are transferred to the Federal Records Center 15 years after the case file becomes inactive and are destroyed after 75 years. WTC Health Program records are transferred to the Federal Records Center 15 years after the case file becomes inactive and are destroyed after 75 years. Any records provided to the Department of Justice for the purpose of screening individuals against the “terrorist watch list” will be destroyed (and not retained by the Department of Justice) once it is determined that an individual is not on the “terrorist watch list.”

Paper files that have been scanned to create electronic copies are disposed of after the copies are verified. Disposal methods include erasing computer tapes and burning or shredding paper materials.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:
Director, WTC Health Program, NIOSH, Century Center Boulevard,
the record and inform the subject individual of its contents at the representative’s discretion. A subject individual will be granted direct access to a medical record if the system manager determines direct access is not likely to have adverse effect on the subject individual. The following information must be provided when requesting notification: (1) Full name; (2) the approximate date and place of the study, if known; and (3) nature of the questionnaire or study in which the requester participated.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:
Same as notification procedures. Requesters should also reasonably specify the record contents being sought. An accounting of disclosures that have been made of the record, if any, may be requested.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:
Contact the official at the address specified under System Manager above, reasonably identify the record and specify the information being contested, the corrective action sought, and the reasons for requesting the correction, along with supporting information to show how the record is inaccurate, incomplete, untimely, or irrelevant.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:
For research studies, vital status information is obtained from Federal, State and local governments and other available sources selected from those listed in Appendix I, but information is obtained directly from the individual and employer records, whenever possible. EEOICPA records are obtained from the individual subject and the employer’s records. WTC Health Program Records are obtained from individual applicants and enrollees, from medical providers who have treated eligible individuals, and from data centers that are repositories of demographic and clinical information about WTC responders and survivors.

SYSTEMS EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:
None.