

collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, OA&L invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of OA&L's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of OA&L's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Provision 852.214–70, Caution to Bidders—Bid Envelopes.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0593.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VAAR provision 852.214–70, Caution to Bidders—Bid Envelopes, advises bidders that it is their responsibility to ensure their bid price cannot be ascertained by anyone prior to bid opening. It also advises bidders to identify their bids by showing the invitation number and bid opening date on the outside of the bid envelope. The information requested from bidders is needed to identify bid envelopes from other mail or packages received and to ensure the bids are delivered to the proper bid opening room on time and prior to bid opening.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 960 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 10 seconds.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 346,000.

Dated: April 8, 2013.

By direction of the Secretary:

**William F. Russo,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2013–08509 Filed 4–10–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0600]

### Proposed Information Collection (Regulation for Reconsideration of Denied Claims) Activity: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to request an informal review of veterans' denied healthcare benefits claims.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before June 10, 2013

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); or to Cynthia Harvey-Pryor, Veterans Health Administration (10B4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420; or email: [cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov](mailto:cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0600” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cynthia Harvey-Pryor at (202) 461–5870.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13; 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) the accuracy of VHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Regulation for Reconsideration of Denied Claims.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0600.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Veterans who disagree with the initial decision denying their healthcare benefits in whole or in part may obtain reconsideration by submitting a request in writing within one year of the date of the initial decision. The request must state why the decision is in error and include any new and relevant information not previously considered. This process reduces both formal appeals and allows decision making to be more responsive to veterans using the VA healthcare system.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 50,826 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 101,652.

Dated: April 8, 2013.

By direction of the Secretary:

**William F. Russo,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2013–08508 Filed 4–10–13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0585]

### Proposed Information Collection (Brand Name or Equal) Activity: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of Acquisition and Logistics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Acquisition and Logistics (OA&L), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to allow firms to offer items that are equal to the brand name item stated in the bid.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before June 10, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); or to Sylvester Rainey, Office of Acquisition and Logistics (003A2A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420; or email: [sylvester.rainey@va.gov](mailto:sylvester.rainey@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0585" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sylvester Rainey at (202) 632-5339 or Fax at (202) 343-1434.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, OA&L invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of OA&L's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of OA&L's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Clause 852.211-77, Brand Name or Equal (was 852.210-77).  
*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0585.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VAAR clause 852.211-77 advises bidders or offerors who are proposing to offer an item that is alleged

to be equal to the brand name item stated in the bid, that it is the bidder's or offeror's responsibility to show that the item offered is in fact, equal to the brand name item. This evidence may be in the form of descriptive literature or material, such as cuts, illustrations, drawings, or other information. While submission of the information is voluntary, failure to provide the information may result in rejection of the firm's bid or offer if the Government cannot otherwise determine that the item offered is equal. The contracting officer will use the information to evaluate whether or not the item offered meets the specification requirements.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit and Not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,666 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 10 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10,000.

Dated: April 8, 2013.

By direction of the Secretary.

**William F. Russo,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2013-08510 Filed 4-10-13; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustments for Service-Connected Benefits**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012, Public Law 112-198, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of adjustments in certain benefit rates. These adjustments affect the compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) programs.

**DATES:** These adjustments became effective on December 1, 2012, the date provided by Public Law 112-198.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Hill, Program Analyst, Compensation Services (212B), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-1468.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 2 of Public Law 112-198 provides for an

increase in each of the rates in sections 1114, 1115(1), 1162, 1311, 1313, and 1314 of title 38, United States Code. VA is required to increase these benefit rates by the same percentage as increases in the benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act. In computing increased rates in the cited title 38 sections, fractions of a dollar are rounded down to the nearest dollar. The increased rates are required to be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Social Security Administration has announced that there will be a 1.7 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits for 2013. Therefore, applying the same percentage, the following rates for VA compensation and DIC programs became effective on December 1, 2012:

**DISABILITY COMPENSATION**  
[38 U.S.C. 1114]

| Disability evaluation percent    | Monthly rate             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10 .....                         | \$129                    |
| 20 .....                         | 255                      |
| 30 .....                         | 395                      |
| 40 .....                         | 569                      |
| 50 .....                         | 810                      |
| 60 .....                         | 1,026                    |
| 70 .....                         | 1,293                    |
| 80 .....                         | 1,503                    |
| 90 .....                         | 1,689                    |
| 100 .....                        | 2,816                    |
| (38 U.S.C. 1114(k) through (s)): |                          |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(k) .....          | \$100; 3,504; 100; 4,917 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(l) .....          | 3,504                    |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(m) .....          | 3,867                    |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(n) .....          | 4,399                    |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(o) .....          | 4,917                    |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(p) .....          | 4,917                    |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(r) .....          | 2,109; 3,142             |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(s) .....          | 3,152                    |

**ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS**  
[38 U.S.C. 1115(1)]

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1):         |         |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(A) ..... | \$157   |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(B) ..... | 272; 78 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(C) ..... | 105; 78 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(D) ..... | 126     |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(E) ..... | 301     |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(F) ..... | 252     |

**CLOTHING ALLOWANCE**  
[38 U.S.C. 1162]

\$753 per year