

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]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

**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

**DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE**  
[38 U.S.C. 1311]

Pay Grade:	
E-1 .....	\$1,215
E-2 .....	1,215
E-3 .....	1,215
E-4 .....	1,215
E-5 .....	1,215
E-6 .....	1,215
E-7 .....	1,257
E-8 .....	1,327
E-9(1) .....	1,384
W-1 .....	1,283
W-2 .....	1,334
W-3 .....	1,373
W-4 .....	1,453
O-1 .....	1,283
O-2 .....	1,327
O-3 .....	1,418
O-4 .....	1,503
O-5 .....	1,654
O-6 .....	1,865
O-7 .....	2,013
O-8 .....	2,211
O-9 .....	2,365
O-10(2) .....	2,594

(1) If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, the surviving spouse's monthly rate is \$1,494.

(2) If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, the surviving spouse's monthly rate is \$2,784.

**DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE**  
[38 U.S.C. 1311(a) through (f)]

38 U.S.C. 1311(a) through (f):	
38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(1) .....	\$1,215
38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(2) .....	258
38 U.S.C. 1311(b) .....	301
38 U.S.C. 1311(c) .....	301
38 U.S.C. 1311(d) .....	141
38 U.S.C. 1311(f) .....	263

**DIC TO CHILDREN**  
[38 U.S.C. 1313]

38 U.S.C. 1313:	
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1) .....	\$513
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(2) .....	738
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(3) .....	963
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(4) .....	963; 183

**SUPPLEMENTAL DIC TO CHILDREN**  
[38 U.S.C. 1314]

38 U.S.C. 1314:	
38 U.S.C. 1314(a) .....	\$301
38 U.S.C. 1314(b) .....	513
38 U.S.C. 1314(c) .....	255

Approved: April 3, 2013.  
**Jose D. Riojas,**  
*Interim Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.*  
[FR Doc. 2013-08529 Filed 4-10-13; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Privacy Act of 1974: Computer Matching Program**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.  
**ACTION:** Notice of Computer Match Program.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a computer matching program with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Data from the proposed match will be used to verify the earned income of nonservice-connected veterans, and those veterans who are zero percent service-connected (noncompensable), whose eligibility for VA medical care is based on their inability to defray the cost of medical care. These veterans supply household income information that includes their spouses and dependents at the time of application for VA health care benefits.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This match will start April 9, 2013, unless comments dictate otherwise.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); by mail or hand-delivery to the Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273-9026. Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 for an appointment. In addition, during the comment period, comments may be

viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tony A. Guagliardo, Director, Health Eligibility Center, (404) 848-5300 (this is not a toll free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has statutory authorization under 38 U.S.C. 5317, 38 U.S.C. 5106, 26 U.S.C. 6103(l)(7)(D)(viii) and 5 U.S.C. 552a to establish matching agreements and request and use income information from other agencies for purposes of verification of income for determining eligibility for benefits. 38 U.S.C. 1710(a)(2)(G), 1710(a)(3), and 1710(b) identify those veterans whose basic eligibility for medical care benefits is dependent upon their financial status. Eligibility for nonservice-connected and zero percent noncompensable service-connected veterans is determined based on the veteran's inability to defray the expenses for necessary care as defined in 38 U.S.C. 1722. This determination can affect their responsibility to participate in the cost of their care through copayments and their assignment to an enrollment priority group. The goal of this match is to obtain SSA earned income information data needed for the income verification process. The VA records involved in the match are "Enrollment and Eligibility Records—VA" (147VA16). The SSA records are from the Earnings Recording and Self-Employment Income System, SSA/OEEAS 09-60-0059 and Master Files of Social Security Number Holders and SSN Applications, SSA/OEEAS, 60-0058, (referred to as "the Numident"). A copy of this notice has been sent to both Houses of Congress and OMB.

This matching agreement expires 18 months after its effective date. This match will not continue past the legislative authorized date to obtain this information.

Approved: March 26, 2013.  
**John R. Gingrich,**  
*Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.*  
[FR Doc. 2013-08531 Filed 4-10-13; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Privacy Act of 1974; Report of Matching Program**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.  
**ACTION:** Notice of Computer Matching Program.