Program might increase the likelihood that members may be subject to unfair discrimination in the Program's approval and disqualification process.

In response, the Exchange noted that it will issue Trader Notices to provide clear guidance on how the ''substantially all'' standard will be implemented and monitored. The Exchange also noted that the Program is designed to attract as much retail order flow as possible, and that, should RMOs begin submitting substantial amounts of non-retail order flow, liquidity providers would become less willing to participate in the Program. Finally, the Exchange disagreed with the commenter's statement that a standard that provides a *de minimis* number of exceptions would be any harder to enforce that a standard that permitted no exceptions.

IV. Discussion and Commission Findings

After careful review of the proposal, the comment letter received, and the Exchange's response, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange.[11] In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,[12] which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest; and not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

The Commission finds that the proposed ''substantially all'' standard is a limited and sufficiently-defined modification to the Program's current RMO attestation requirements that does not constitute a significant departure from the Program as initially approved by the Commission.[13] The proposal makes clear that to comply with the standard, RMOs may submit only isolated and *de minimis* amounts of agency orders that cannot be segregated from Retail Orders due to systems limitations.[14] Furthermore, as the Exchange noted, RMOs will need to adequately document their compliance with the ''substantially all'' standard in their books and records. Specifically, an RMO would need to retain adequate documentation that substantially all orders sent to the Exchange as Retail Orders met that definition, and that those orders not meeting that definition are agency orders that cannot be segregated from Retail Orders due to system limitations, and are *de minimis* in terms of the overall number of Retail Orders sent to the Exchange. The Commission also notes that the CBOE will, on behalf of the Exchange, monitor an RMO's compliance with this requirement.

Additionally, the Commission finds that the Exchange has provided adequate justification for the proposal. The Exchange represented that, as several significant retail brokers explained to them, the current ''any order'' standard is effectively prohibitive, given the brokers' order flow aggregation and management systems. The Exchange further represented that these retail brokers indicated their systems would allow them to comply with the ''substantially all'' standard, as proposed. By allowing these retail brokers to participate in the Program, the proposal could bring the potential benefits of the Program, including price improvement and increased transparency,[15] to the retail order flow that these brokers represent.[16]

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[17] that the proposed rule change (SR–BYX–2013–008) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[18]

Kevin M. O'Neill,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–13036 Filed 5–31–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–69642; File No. SR–OCC–2013–05]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Provide That OCC, Rather Than an Adjustment Panel of the Securities Committee, Will Determine Adjustments to the Terms of Options Contracts to Account for Certain Events, Such as Certain Dividend Distributions or Other Corporate Actions, That Affect the Underlying Security or Other Underlying Interest

May 28, 2013.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Exchange Act''),[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on May 15, 2013, The Options Clearing Corporation (''OCC'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by OCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

OCC proposes to provide that OCC, rather than an adjustment panel of the Securities Committee, will determine adjustments to the terms of options contracts to account for certain events, such as certain dividend distributions or other corporate actions, that affect the underlying security or other underlying interest.

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[11] In approving the proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. *See* 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

[12] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[13] The Commission notes that it approved the Program on a pilot basis subject to ongoing Commission review.

[14] While the Commission recognizes the potential benefit of the commenter's suggestion concerning a bright-line definition of *de minimis, see supra* note 10, the Commission believes that, in light of the facts surrounding the instant proposal, the proposal, and the guidance that the Exchange will provide to its members on this point, are sufficiently clear. The Commission also notes that the example the commenter cites is found in Regulation M, which governs different circumstances than those at issue here.

[15] For a more detailed discussion of the Program's potential benefits, *see* Program Approval Order, *supra* note 7.

[16] The commenter also expressed concern that this proposal may increase the burden upon the Exchange in monitoring compliance with the Program. The Commission finds that any potential concerns raised by this assertion, which is disputed by the Exchange, are outweighed by the potential benefits of the proposal; namely, that the proposal may allow more retail orders the opportunity to participate in the Program and receive the attendant benefits of the Program. With respect to the commenter's concern that members may be subject to unfair discrimination in the approval and disqualification process for participation in the Program, the Commission notes that it previously found that the Program's provisions concerning the certification, approval, and potential disqualification of RMOs not inconsistent with the Act. *See* Program Approval Order, *supra* note 7, at note 41.

[17] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[18] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

II. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, OCC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

(A) Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The principal purpose of this proposed rule change is to authorize OCC, rather than adjustment panels of the Securities Committee,[3] to determine option contract adjustments and to determine the value of distributed property involved in such adjustments. Other conforming or clarifying changes to the By-Laws relating to adjustments and/or adjustment panels also are being proposed.

1. Background and Purpose of Proposed Rule Change

Certain corporate actions—such as declaration of dividends or distributions, stock splits, rights offerings, reorganizations, or the merger or liquidation of an issuer—affecting an underlying security may require an adjustment to the terms of the overlying options. For example, in a two-for-one stock split, the overlying options might also be split two-for-one, so that each option would continue to cover the same number of shares but with an exercise price equal to half of the pre-split price. The basic procedural rules governing such ''adjustments'' in the terms of outstanding options are set forth in Section 11 of Article VI of OCC's By-Laws, and the substantive rules specifically covering adjustment of stock options are set forth in Section 11A of Article VI. Although much less common, it is also possible that events affecting indexes and other underlying interests could also require adjustment of the overlying options. Rules for adjustment of such other options are generally found in the By-Law provisions applicable to such other options.

The procedural rules of Article VI, Section 11 of the By-Laws provide that all adjustments to option contracts be determined on a case-by-case basis by an adjustment panel of the Securities Committee composed of two representatives[4] of each exchange that trades an option on the underlying security and the OCC Chairman (or his representative). All actions are determined by majority vote, with OCC voting only to break a tie. Besides determining particular adjustments in individual cases, Article VI, Section 11 also authorizes the Securities Committee to adopt statements of policy or interpretations governing option adjustments in general. Additionally, the Securities Committee is authorized to determine the value of distributed property involved in stock option adjustments as stated in Article VI, Section 11A(f).

The options exchanges asked OCC to evaluate possible changes to the structure and procedures which govern option contract adjustments. The request was prompted by a desire to consider ways to lessen investor confusion and enhance consistency in making option contract adjustments. In addition, the exchanges have expressed concern that exchange representatives involved in adjustment decisions may sometimes be subject to undue pressure from investors. Accordingly, the exchanges asked OCC to investigate whether changes to adjustment procedures could insulate the exchanges from undue pressure while concurrently providing greater consistency and efficiency in making adjustment decisions.

2. Description of Proposed Changes

Discussions among OCC and the exchanges concerning potential changes to Securities Committee governance in respect of adjustments yielded a consensus that the exchanges should retain policy-making authority under the adjustment By-Laws through the Securities Committee but that OCC should be the sole determiner of particular adjustment decisions, thereby eliminating adjustment panels convened for the purpose of determining adjustments of particular option contracts. The Securities Committee ratified the following recommendations by unanimous vote:

(i) The policy making role of the Securities Committee should be unchanged. As members of the Securities Committee, exchanges should retain authority to determine adjustment policy in general.

(ii) OCC should apply the adjustment By-Laws and Interpretations to determine particular adjustments on a case-by-case basis. An adjustment panel comprised of exchange and OCC representatives should *not* be called to determine a particular adjustment, thereby insulating the exchanges from investor pressure to determine a particular outcome.[5]

(iii) OCC and the exchanges should retain unrestricted ability to mutually discuss considerations pertaining to any adjustment decision or policy.

(iv) OCC should be given authority to determine the value of distributed property involved in contract adjustments.

These recommendations were reviewed with OCC's Board of Directors, which unanimously approved them by authorizing the filing of this proposed rule change.

Notwithstanding the elimination of exchange representative adjustment panels, panels of exchange representatives would still retain their existing functions and authority under other provisions of OCC's By-Laws. For example, those panels would retain the authority to fix exercise settlement amounts for cash-settled options where a closing price for the underlying is otherwise unavailable.[6]

The types of adjustments for which exchange representative panels may continue to be convened would be limited to very rare situations involving market closures or the unavailability of accurate pricing, and would need to be done on very short notice, unlike dividend adjustments, for which there can be a period of time between the announcement of a dividend and the decision of the panel. Accordingly, it is much less likely that exchange representatives on these panels would be subject to the same risk of undue pressure from investors. These situations are also less likely to fit within a policy or precedent that could

[3] The OCC Securities Committee is authorized under OCC By-Law Article VI Section 11(a) to determine contract adjustments in particular cases and to formulate adjustment policy or interpretations having general applicability. The Securities Committee is comprised of representatives of OCC's participant options exchanges and authorized representatives of OCC.

[4] The Commission has approved an amendment to OCC's By-Laws under which only one representative of each relevant exchange is required on an adjustment panel. Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34–67333 (July 2, 2012), 77 FR 40394 (July 9, 2012) (SR–OCC–2012–07). However, the amendment will not be implemented until an amendment to the Options Disclosure Document reflecting this change is made. Interpretation and Policy .01 to Article VI, Section 11 clarifies that until such time as the amendment to the Options Disclosure Document is made and only one representative is required, an adjustment panel must have two representatives of each exchange that trades an option on the underlying security.

[5] There is precedent for this approach in that OCC currently determines all contract adjustments for security futures. *See* Article XII, Sections 3 and 4 of OCC's By-Laws.

[6] *See, e.g.,* Article XIV, Section 5, Article XVII, Section 4, Article XXII, Section 4 and Article XXIV, Section 4.

be prescribed in advance by the Securities Committee, and therefore it would be more difficult for the Corporation to make the decisions without the input of the relevant exchanges.

3. Discussion

As a result of the proposed changes described above, adjustment panels for the purpose of determining adjustments of particular options contracts would cease to exist, and exchanges would have no obligation or authority to determine a particular adjustment. OCC would determine the appropriate application of the By-Laws and Interpretations and Policies, but the exchanges would retain policy making authority as members of the Securities Committee. In this policy making capacity, actions of the Securities Committee would continue to require approval by a majority vote.

Occasionally, there may be unique aspects of a corporate event that justify departure from adjustment policy or precedent, or that involve a situation for which there is no existing adjustment policy or precedent. Such events may also highlight a need for a more general reformulation of adjustment policy. Under the proposed changes, if OCC determines such aspects to be present, OCC would determine in its sole discretion any adjustment to be applied in the particular case. The Securities Committee would not initiate policy changes ''ad hoc'' to address a particular case (which would be a *de facto* determination of a particular adjustment decision). Instead, after OCC determined a particular adjustment, the Securities Committee, in its discretion, would determine the appropriateness of adopting prospective policy changes or clarifications.[7]

Although OCC and the exchanges believe it is feasible for OCC to independently determine adjustments, both are averse to losing valuable exchange experience and insight that is now brought to bear in adjustment decisions. Accordingly, OCC and the exchanges believe that they should retain unrestricted ability to discuss with each other any considerations pertaining to an adjustment decision or policy—with the understanding that adjustment decisions would be made solely by OCC and the exchanges would be involved solely in an advisory capacity. Accordingly, nothing in the present proposal would prohibit either the exchanges or OCC from initiating conversations concerning adjustment policy or particular adjustment decisions, but neither would such consultation be required.[8] Furthermore, to ensure continued exchange involvement in determining adjustment policy, OCC intends to call periodic meetings of the Securities Committee to discuss policy issues and review recent experience with contract adjustments.[9] Such meetings will be held on a quarterly or more frequent periodic basis.

Occasionally option adjustments involve the substitution of cash value in lieu of delivery of property. For example, this is the case when a security does not trade in the United States or cash in lieu of property is involved. Currently, the Securities Committee has authority to determine such cash value. OCC is proposing that it would instead be authorized to determine cash value in these cases since it would have sole discretion to determine contract adjustments.

The proposed changes would apply only to the functions of OCC and the Securities Committee in the determination of option contract adjustments as described in Article VI, Sections 11 and other By-Law provisions.[10] The Securities Committee—or panels comprised of representatives of the Securities Committee—in respect of actions that do *not* involve option contract adjustments would retain all other functions and authority granted under the By-Laws, including, for example, the ability to fix index option settlement values in cases of market disruption [11] and similar actions.

Adjustment provisions of the By-Laws pertaining to classes of options other than stock options sometimes provide for adjustment panels by referring to Article VI, Section 11. Insofar as Article VI, Section 11 would be modified to eliminate the need for adjustment panels, the requirement for adjustment panels to determine contract adjustments for these other types of option contracts would also be eliminated, with case by case adjustment decisions determined solely by OCC.

4. Other Changes

In addition to the principal purpose underlying this rule change as described above, certain other conforming and/or clarifying changes are being proposed. These changes are intended to update the By-Laws to eliminate stale rule provisions, to conform cross-references contained in other By-Laws to changes being proposed herein and to clarify certain interpretations adopted under the By-Laws to reflect a recent policy determination made by the Securities Committee in accordance with its authority granted under Article VI, Section 11 of OCC's By-Laws. These changes generally are described below.

OCC is proposing to modify or eliminate certain adjustment related By-Law provisions because, due to industry or other changes, there is no longer any open interest in options covered by such provisions. For example, equity options previously had traded with exercise prices expressed in either fractions or decimals. All exercise prices for equity options now are expressed in decimals, and all open interest in options series for which exercise prices were expressed in fractions has expired. Several By-Law provisions are being modified or eliminated to reflect this circumstance.[12]

OCC also is proposing to eliminate other stale provisions, including those found within Interpretation and Policy .01 under the Article VI, Section 11, which relates to the determination of ''ordinary cash dividends or distributions'' for which no adjustment is ordinarily made. These provisions preserved the ''10% rule'' (*i.e.,* the former method used to determine whether a cash dividend or distribution was ordinary) for application to certain series that had open interest prior to rescission of the 10% rule. Open interest in all such ''grandfathered'' series has expired, and therefore these provisions are no longer necessary. Changes would also be made to Article XIV, Section 3A(a)(3) in relation to

[7] This approach was followed in 2006 in response to a special cash dividend. In that case, adjustment panels determined to depart from precedent and adjust certain ETF options where the ETF distributed pro rata dividends based on the amount of a special dividend paid by the issuer of one of the component stocks in the ETF. Following these adjustments, the Securities Committee recommended to the OCC Board a policy reformulation. *See* Interpretation .08 to Article VI, Section 11A.

[8] Confidentiality of the communications between OCC and the Exchanges would continue to be observed—as it is today.

[9] As a practical matter, even if adjustments are determined solely by OCC it would still be necessary for OCC and the exchanges to coordinate the operational execution of all option adjustments. This coordination includes, but is not limited to, the determination of an effective date, option symbols and strike prices and the publication of notices.

[10] *See, e.g.,* [sic] Article XII, Sections 3 and 4; Article XIV, Section 3A; Article XV, Section 4; Article XVI, Section 3; Article XVII, Section 3; Article XX, Section 4; Article XXII, Section 3; Article XXIII, Section 4; and Article XXIV, Section 6.

[11] *See, e.g.,* By-Law Article XVII, Section 4.

[12] *See, e.g.,* the proposed changes to the definition of the term ''adjustment increment,'' Article I, Section 1.A(2); Article VI, Section 11A(d); Interpretation & Policy .09 under Article VI, Section 11A; and Article XII, Section 3(d).

binary options for which the underlying is an equity interest.

OCC's Securities Committee is empowered under the By-Laws to adopt statements of policy or interpretations having general application to specified types of events or specific kinds of cleared contracts. Recently, the Securities Committee issued a clarifying interpretation with respect to determinations of corporate issuers to accelerate or defer payments of otherwise ordinary dividends. More specifically, the Securities Committee determined that such events would not, as a general rule, affect the ordinary nature of such dividends subject to the evaluation of these events on a case-by-case basis.[13] Comparable changes, as applicable, would be made to Article XIV, Section 3A. Other changes being proposed are conforming in nature in that they update cross-references to By-Laws and Rules proposed to be amended.

OCC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the purposes and requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the ''Act'') [14] and the rules and regulations thereunder because the proposed changes would help promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in the settlement of securities transactions [15] by providing OCC with sole discretion for particular adjustment decisions to help ensure that decisions are consistent, efficient and free from undue influence and by providing conforming and clarifying changes to OCC's By-Laws and Rules to help ensure that OCC maintains a well-founded, transparent and enforceable legal framework as required by Rule 17Ad–22(d)(1).[16] The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with any rules of OCC, including any rules proposed to be amended.

OCC will not implement these proposed rule changes until the effectiveness of an amendment to the Options Disclosure Document relating to the proposed changes.

(B) Clearing Agency's Statement on Burden on Competition

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change will impact, or impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change primarily affects OCC's clearing members and their customers, but it would not impose any additional burden on them because options are already subject to adjustment and the revised procedures apply equally to all clearing members. OCC does not believe that providing OCC with sole discretion for particular adjustment decisions, rather than continuing to rely on adjustment panels consisting of exchange representatives, would inhibit access to any of OCC's services or disadvantage or favor any user of OCC's services in relationship to any other such user. In fact, OCC believes that the proposed rule change would promote competition among participants in the options markets because it would help ensure that adjustment decisions are consistent, efficient and free from undue influence and therefore it would promote certainty, fairness and a level playing field in the options markets with respect to when and how participants are affected by adjustments.

For the foregoing reasons, OCC believes that the proposed rule change is in the public interest and consistent with the requirements of the Act applicable to clearing agencies because it would promote competition in the options markets that OCC serves and not impose a burden on competition that is unnecessary or inappropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

(C) Clearing Agency's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments on the proposed rule change were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change and none have been received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (*http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov.* Please include File Number SR–OCC–2013–05 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–OCC–2013–05. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (*http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml).* Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for Web site viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC and on OCC's Web site: *http://www.theocc.com/components/docs/legal/rules_and_bylaws/sr_occ_13_05.pdf*).

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–OCC–2013–05 and should be submitted on or before June 24, 2013.

[13] Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34–68531 (December 21, 2012), 77 FR 77157 (December 31, 2012) (SR–OCC–2012–26).

[14] 15 U.S.C. 78q–1.

[15] 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

[16] 17 CFR 240.17Ad–22(d)(1).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[17]

Kevin M. O'Neill,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–12975 Filed 5–31–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[File No. 500–1]

Lanbo Financial Group, Inc.; Order of Suspension of Trading

May 30, 2013.

It appears to the Securities and Exchange Commission that there is a lack of current and accurate information concerning the securities of Lanbo Financial Group, Inc. because it has not filed any periodic reports since the period ended September 30, 2005.

The Commission is of the opinion that the public interest and the protection of investors require a suspension of trading in the securities of the above-listed company. Therefore, it is ordered, pursuant to Section 12(k) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, that trading in the securities of the above-listed company is suspended for the period from 9:30 a.m. EDT on May 30, 2013, through 11:59 p.m. EDT on June 12, 2013.

By the Commission.

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–13157 Filed 5–30–13; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages requiring clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104–13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. This notice includes revisions of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Mail, email, or fax your comments and recommendations on the information collection(s) to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses or fax numbers.

(OMB)

Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, Fax: 202–395–6974, Email address: *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

(SSA)

Social Security Administration, DCRDP, Attn: Reports Clearance Director, 107 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410–966–2830, Email address: *OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov.*

I. The information collections below are pending at SSA. SSA will submit them to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them no later than August 2, 2013. Individuals can obtain copies of the collection instruments by writing to the above email address.

1. *Certificate of Coverage Request—20 CFR 404.1913—0960–0554.* The United States has agreements with 24 foreign countries to eliminate double Social Security coverage and taxation where, except for the provisions of the agreement, a worker would be subject to coverage and taxes in both countries. These agreements contain rules for determining the country under whose laws the worker's period of employment is covered, and to which country the worker will pay taxes. The agreements further dictate that, upon the request of the worker or employer, the country under whose system the period of work is covered will issue a certificate of coverage. The certificate serves as proof of exemption from coverage and taxation under the system of the other country. The information we collect assists us in determining a worker's coverage and in issuing a U.S. certificate of coverage as appropriate. Per our agreements, we ask a set number of questions to the workers and employers prior to issuing a certificate of coverage; however, our agreements with Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden require us to ask more questions in those countries. Respondents are workers and employers wishing to establish exemption from foreign Social Security taxes. Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of completion	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (minutes)	Estimated annual burden (hours)
Requests via Letter—Individuals (minus Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden)	5,320	1	40	3,547
Requests via Internet—Individuals (minus Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden)	7,979	1	40	5,319
Requests via Letter—Individuals in Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden	280	1	44	205
Requests via Internet—Individuals in Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden	421	1	44	309
Requests via Letter—Employers (minus Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden)	21,279	1	40	14,186
Requests via Internet—Employers (minus Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden)	31,920	1	40	21,280
Requests via Letter—Employers in Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden	1,121	1	44	822
Requests via Internet—Employers in Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, & Sweden	1,680	1	44	1232
Totals	70,000	.....	.....	46,900

[17] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).