

Justification

RUIA Investigations and Continuing Entitlement

RRB Forms UI-9, UI-23, UI-44, UI-48, ID-4F, ID-4U, ID-4X, ID-4Y,
ID-5I, ID-5R (SUP), ID-49R, ID-20-1, ID-20-2, ID-20-4,

1. Circumstances of information collection – The collection, RUIA Investigations and Entitlement, consists of two components. The first component, has to do with Statements of Claimed Railroad Service and Earnings, and deals with entitlement to unemployment and sickness benefits issues.

To qualify for unemployment or sickness benefits payable under Section 2 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), a railroad employee must have certain qualifying earnings in the applicable base year. In addition, to qualify for extended or accelerated benefits under section 2 of the RUIA, a railroad employee who has exhausted his or her rights to normal benefits must have at least 10 years of railroad service. Accelerated benefits are unemployment or sickness benefits that are payable to a railroad employee before the regular July 1 beginning date of a benefit year if that employee has 10 or more years of service and is not qualified for benefits in the current benefit year.

A benefit year that is started early for one type of benefit (unemployment or sickness) also starts early for benefits of the other type. Also, an employee may receive sickness benefits in a benefit year extended for unemployment benefits and vice versa. It is possible to have benefit periods extended for both unemployment and sickness with respect to the same benefit year.

During the RUIA claims review process, the RRB may determine that unemployment or sickness benefits cannot be awarded because RRB records show insufficient qualifying service and/or compensation. When this occurs, the RRB allows the claimant the opportunity to provide additional information if they believe that the RRB service and compensation records are incorrect.

The provisions relating to these benefits are prescribed in 20 CFR 325, 335 and 336.

The second component provides for the Investigation of a Claim to determine if a claimant has improperly or fraudulently claimed benefits by working or receiving state benefits during a period when they also have received unemployment or sickness benefits from the RRB.

Under section I(k) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), unemployment and sickness benefits are not payable for any day with respect to which remuneration is payable or accrues to the claimant. Also, section 4(a-1) of the RUIA provides that unemployment or sickness benefits are not payable for any day the claimant receives the same benefits under any law other than the RUIA.

Under the Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) regulations, 20 CFR 322.4(a), a claimant's certification or statement on a claim form provided by the RRB to the effect that he or she did not work on any day claimed and did not receive income such as vacation pay or pay for time lost for any day claimed on such form will constitute sufficient evidence that this requirement has been met unless there is conflicting evidence. The forms provided by the RRB for such purposes are Forms UI-3 and SI-3, OMB numbers 3220-0022 and 3220-0039, respectively.

Further, 20 CFR 322.4(b), provides that when there is a question as to whether this basic requirement has been met, investigation will be made with a view of obtaining information sufficient for a finding.

Information indicating that an investigation should be initiated may be received on or with applications or claims; from wages and/or benefit payments shown on State wage records; from compensation shown on railroad employers' records; during interviews; from tips or complaints from interested outsiders; or from employers.

2. Purposes of collecting/consequences of not collecting the information- In processing an unemployment or sickness claim, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) sometimes find that benefits cannot be awarded because RRB records show insufficient compensation or service to qualify the employee for unemployment or sickness benefits. A "qualified employee" is one who earns creditable compensation in the base year (\$2,987.50 in 2006, \$3,075 in 2007), counting no more than a certain amount in any month (\$1,195 in 2006, \$1,230 in 2007). The base year is the calendar year preceding the benefit year that begins on July 1st each year. In addition, a new employee must have some employment in at least five months of the first year worked in the railroad industry in order to draw benefits in the following benefit year. Further, to obtain extended or accelerated benefits, the employee must have at least 120 months of service.

The following fourteen forms are used by the RRB to obtain the information needed to determine if a claimant has sufficient compensation or service to qualify for unemployment or sickness benefits.

Form UI-9, Applicant's Statement of Employment and Wages, is used to investigate an applicant's qualification for benefits under the RUIA in cases where RRB records show no, or insufficient, qualifying compensation in the base year. (For the benefit year beginning July 1, 2006, the base year would be calendar year 2007.) It is also used to establish the correct amount of compensation to be credited an applicant when the applicant states that RRB compensation records do not agree with his or her records. The form enables the RRB to obtain a record of the applicant's claimed compensation, railroad service and certain other information essential to a compensation investigation.

The RRB uses both a computer-generated and a stocked version of Form UI-9. The railroad service and compensation information requested by both versions of the form is

identical. Form UI-9 is transmitted to the claimant by means of various form letters in the ID-4 or ID-32 series (ID-4, ID-4F, ID-4U, ID-4X, ID-4Y, ID-4-S-1, ID-4-S-2, or ID-32n) depending on the particular wage and/or service information that is needed for determining the claimant's entitlement to benefits. The UI-9 and appropriate transmittal letter are mailed directly to the applicant who returns it to the RRB by mail upon completion. Completion of Form UI-9 is self-explanatory.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form UI-9.

Form UI-23, Claimant's Statement of Service for Railroad Unemployment Insurance Benefits is used to investigate the railroad service of a claimant who may be qualified for extended benefits based on the current benefit year or accelerated benefits based on an early beginning of the next benefit year. To obtain these benefits, the claimant must have at least 120 months of railroad service.

Should the RRB's records not show the required service, a claimant who believes that he or she has the service submits the required information on Form UI-23. The information is used to secure verification of service from the claimant's employer(s) by means of RRB Form UI-41, Supplemental Report of Service or Compensation, OMB No. 3220-0070.

The form is mailed directly to the claimant who returns it to the RRB by mail upon completion. In certain cases involving determinations for the payment of extended unemployment or sickness benefits, form letter ID-32n is used to transmit Form UI-23 to the claimant. Completion of Form UI-23 is self-explanatory.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form UI-23.

Form UI-44, Claim for Credit for Military Service (RUIA), is used to develop information needed by the RRB to determine whether an employee has sufficient creditable compensation and/or service to qualify for normal, extended or accelerated benefits. Form UI-44 is used by the RRB to obtain information concerning a railroad employee's military service. It is released by the RRB to the claimant when the claimant reports on RRB Forms ID-4F, ID-4U, ID-4X ID-4Y, ID-20-1, ID-20-2, ID-20-4, or UI-23 that military service was included as part of his or her claimed creditable service for benefits under the RUIA. It is released only when the claimant's railroad service is insufficient to qualify the claimant for the benefits being applied for.

Form ID-19, is used as a transmittal letter for Form UI-44 and contains instructions for returning the completed form to the RRB.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form UI-44.

Of the eight computer-generated form letters in the ID-4 series that are used by the RRB to transmit Form UI-9 to claimants, four of the form letters - ID-4-F, ID-4U, ID-4X and ID-4Y - are also public use forms. In addition to transmitting Form UI-9, these form letters contain a condensed version of Form UI-23. The main difference between the condensed version and the regular UI-23 version is that the condensed version is formatted to allow the entering of information for only one wage year and only one employer in the lower portion of the form letter, thereby requiring the claimant to provide any additional employer information on the reverse side.

Before releasing any of the ID-4 form letters to the claimant, the RRB enters variable information that is subject to change, such as references to particular calendar years and dollar earnings amounts. If a claimant who receives Form ID-4F, ID-4U, ID-4X or ID-4Y believes that the railroad earnings amount cited in the particular form is wrong and that he or she in fact is qualified for benefits based on earnings, the claimant completes and returns the enclosed Form UI-9. If the claimant believes that he or she is qualified for benefits based on railroad service, the claimant then provides the information requested in the bottom portion of the particular ID-4 form received.

If the bottom portion of a Form ID-4-F, ID-4U, ID-4X or ID-4Y is completed by an employee, the completed form is then returned to the RRB.

The four ID-4 series form letters and explanations as to their use by the RRB follow:

Form ID-4F, Advising of Ineligibility for RUIA Benefits, is used to advise a claimant for unemployment benefits that, based on his or her railroad earnings in a given calendar (base) year, he or she is not qualified to receive such benefits. However, the ID-4F further explains to the claimant that he or she may be qualified for benefits based on an extension of the general benefit year, if certain railroad service requirements are met.

The RRB proposes a minor expansion of the first question of Form ID-4F. The current question asks a claimant if military service is used in calculating their total months of service. The proposed form asks the same question. However, if they have military service, the proposed form also asks the claimant to provide their entry date and discharge date.

Under certain circumstances, periods of military service can be creditable service. The revised item will allow RRB claims examiners to determine more quickly if there are enough creditable military service months that will total up to the 120 service months required for extended benefits, thus speeding up the RRB's effort to verify the service months **and qualifying those claimants for benefits faster.**

Form ID-4U, Advising of Service/Earnings Requirements for RUIA Benefits, is used to advise a claimant for unemployment benefits that, based on his or her railroad

earnings in a given calendar year, he or she is not qualified to receive unemployment benefits. However, the ID-4U further explains to the claimant that he or she may be qualified to receive accelerated benefits if certain earnings and railroad service requirements are met.

The RRB proposes a minor expansion of the first question of Form ID-4U. The current question asks a claimant if military service is used in calculating their total months of service. The proposed form asks the same question. However, if they have military service, the proposed form also asks the claimant to provide their entry date and discharge date.

Under certain circumstances, periods of military service can be creditable service. The revised item will allow RRB claims examiners to determine more quickly if there are enough creditable military service months that will total up to the 120 service months required for accelerated benefits, thus speeding up the RRB's effort to verify the service months **and qualifying those eligible claimants for benefits faster.**

Form ID-4X, Advising of Service/Earnings Requirements for Sickness Benefits, is used to advise a claimant for sickness benefits that because of his or her railroad earnings in a given calendar year, he or she is not qualified to receive such benefits. However, the ID-4X further explains to the claimant that he or she may be qualified to receive accelerated benefits if certain railroad service and age requirements are met.

The RRB proposes a minor expansion of the first question of Form ID-4X. The current question asks a claimant if military service is used in calculating their total months of service. The proposed form asks the same question. However, if they have military service, the proposed form also asks the claimant to provide their entry date and discharge date.

Under certain circumstances, periods of military service can be creditable service. The revised item will allow RRB claims examiners to determine more quickly if there are enough creditable military service months that will total up to the 120 service months required for accelerated benefits, thus speeding up the RRB's effort to verify the service months **and qualifying those eligible claimants for benefits faster.**

Form ID-4Y, Advising of Ineligibility for Sickness Benefits, is used to advise a claimant for sickness benefits that, because of his or her railroad earnings in a given calendar year, he or she is not qualified to receive such benefits. However, the ID-4Y further explains to the claimant that he or she may qualify for sickness benefits based on an extension of the general benefit year, if certain service and age requirements are met.

The RRB proposes a minor expansion of the first question of Form ID-4Y. The current question asks a claimant if military service is used in calculating their total

months of service. The proposed form asks the same question. However, if they have military service, the proposed form also asks the claimant to provide their entry date and discharge date.

Under certain circumstances certain periods of military service can be creditable service. The revised item will allow RRB claims examiners to determine more quickly if there are enough creditable military service months that will total up to the 120 service months required for accelerated or extended benefits, thus speeding up the RRB's effort to verify the service months **and qualifying those eligible claimants for benefits faster.**

In addition to the ID-4 series of form letters, the RRB also uses a variety of form letters in the ID-20 series for communicating with unemployment or sickness claimants. The ID-4 series letters are used to communicate with claimants who have not yet been determined to be qualified for benefits by the RRB. In contrast, the ID-20 series concerns railroad employees who have actually been receiving unemployment or sickness benefits, but have either exhausted benefits or are about to exhaust benefits in a given benefit year. The ID-20 series of forms are similar to the four ID-4 series public use forms, in that an employee is asked to provide employment information in the bottom portion of the form if the employee believes that the RRB records concerning his or her railroad service months are incorrect.

As with the ID-4 series, before releasing any of the ID-20 series form letters, the RRB enters the variable information, such as references to calendar years, beginning and ending dates of extended benefit periods, dollar earnings amounts and cumulative railroad service months.

Three of the ID-20 series of form letters are public use forms in that they offer a claimant the opportunity to provide railroad service information if he or she believes that the service month information, or in one instance, the claimant's age, as cited by the RRB on a particular form letter is wrong. Unlike the ID-4 series of form letters, the ID-20 series does not transmit a Form UI-9 for purposes of obtaining an employee's wage information. The form letters are formatted to provide for the entering of service month information in the bottom portion of each letter. Also, the employee may, if necessary, use the reverse side of the form letter to enter additional service month information. The completed ID-20 form letter is then returned to the RRB with the employee's next claim.

The three ID-20 form letters and explanations as to their use by the RRB follow:

Form ID-20-1, Advising that Normal Unemployment Benefits Are About to be Exhausted, is sent to railroad employees who have been claiming and receiving unemployment benefits. The form letter serves as a notice to the claimant that he or she is about to exhaust normal benefits and, based on RRB records, is not entitled to extended benefits because the claimant has not accrued 120 months of railroad service.

The RRB proposes a minor expansion of the first question of Form ID-20-1. The current question asks a claimant if military service or railroad service after a certain date is used in calculating their total months of service. The proposed form asks the same questions. However, if they have military service, the proposed form also asks the claimant to provide their entry date and discharge date.

Under certain circumstances, periods of military service can be creditable service. The revised item will allow RRB claims examiners to determine more quickly if there are enough creditable military service months that will total up to the 120 service months required for accelerated or extended benefits, thus speeding up the RRB's effort to verify the service months **and qualifying those eligible claimants for benefits faster.**

Form ID-20-2, Advising that Normal Sickness Benefits Are About to be Exhausted, is sent to railroad employees who have been claiming and receiving sickness benefits. The information obtained is the same as that obtained by Form ID-20-1, except that it relates to sickness benefits, rather than unemployment benefits.

The RRB proposes a minor expansion of the first question of Form ID-20-2. The current question asks a claimant if military service or railroad service after a certain date is used in calculating their total months of service. The proposed form asks the same questions. However, if they have military service, the proposed form also asks the claimant to provide their entry date and discharge date.

Under certain circumstances, periods of military service can be creditable service. The revised item will allow RRB claims examiners to determine more quickly if there are enough creditable military service months that will total up to the 120 service months required for accelerated or extended benefits, thus speeding up the RRB's effort to verify the service months **and qualifying those eligible claimants for benefits faster.**

Form ID-20-4, Advising that Normal Sickness Benefits Are About to be Exhausted /Non-Entitlement, is sent to railroad employees who have been receiving sickness benefits. The form is identical to Form ID-20-2, except that, in addition to service months, the form also makes reference to an employee's age as being 65 or over based on information contained in RRB records. Under the RUIA, employees who are age 65 or over are not entitled to extended benefits. If the employee believes that the RRB information pertaining to his or her service months and/or age is wrong, the employee, in addition to completing the bottom portion of the form, also is requested to send a copy of his or her birth certificate or other proof of age to the RRB.

The RRB proposes a minor expansion of the first question of Form ID-20-4. The current question asks a claimant if military service or railroad service after a certain date is used in calculating their total months of service. The proposed form asks the same

questions. However, if they have military service, the proposed form also asks the claimant to provide their entry date and discharge date.

Under certain circumstances, certain periods of military service can be creditable. The revised item will allow RRB claims examiners to determine more quickly if there are enough creditable military service months that will total up to the 120 service months required for accelerated or extended benefits, thus speeding up the RRB's effort to verify the service months **and qualifying those eligible claimants for benefits faster.**

The procedures pertaining to the crediting of military service for extended or accelerated benefits are prescribed in 20 CFR 210.5, 210.6, 211.7 and 212.

The RRB currently uses 4 forms to obtain information needed to resolve whether a claimed day or days of unemployment or sickness were improperly or fraudulently claimed: Form ID-5i, Letter to Non-Railroad Employers on Employment and Earnings of a Claimant; Form ID-5R(SUP), Report of Employees Paid RUIA Benefits for Every Day in Month Reported as Month of Creditable Service; Form ID-49R, Letter to Railroad Employer for Payroll Information; and Form UI-48, Claimant's Statement Regarding Benefit Claims for Days of Employment

Details about the forms follow:

Form ID-5i, Letter to Non-Railroad Employers on Employment and Earnings of a Claimant, is used by the RRB to request information about work performed for a non-railroad employer during the period for which benefits were claimed. The form is released by an RRB field office when it receives information concerning a claimant's non-railroad employment. This information may be obtained from a completed application for benefits, a claimant interview, from wages shown on State wage records, or other information sources. The form is either manually prepared for release, or in cases identified by computer matching programs involving state wage records, computer-generated for release.

Completion of the form is self-explanatory. The front side of Form ID-5i serves as a transmittal letter and contains instructions to the non-railroad employer for furnishing the requested information. The reverse side of the form contains a calendar on which the employer shows the dates worked by an employee during a particular employment period and the earnings received on each date. The claimant's name, social security number and the employment period for which information is needed are entered by the RRB office on the reverse side of the form before its release. A return envelope is provided for return of the completed Form ID-5i to the RRB field office.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form ID-5i.

Form ID-5R(SUP), Report of Employees Paid RUIA Benefits for Every Day in Month

Reported as Month of Creditable Service, is used to request from a railroad employer information about compensation credited to an employee during a period when the employee claimed either unemployment or sickness benefits. The request is computer generated through a comparison of data pertaining to the employee in the RRB's computerized RUIA Benefit Payment file with that in the RRB's computerized records of service and compensation. The ID-5R(SUP) is generated when the comparison shows that an employee or employees of the railroad employer were paid unemployment or sickness benefits for every day in one or more months for which creditable compensation was reported. The comparison is performed annually after the updating of the RRB's service and compensation records with the railroad employers' annual compensation reports.

The computer generated report shows for each employee pertinent identifying information and the claimed months in question. Space is provided on the report for the employer's use in supplying the information requested in the computer generated transmittal letter, Form ID-5R, which accompanies the report. The report and transmittal letter are released directly to the employers with return to the Office of Programs.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form ID-5R (Sup).

Form ID-49R, Letter to Railroad Employer for Payroll Information, is used by the RRB to verify the accuracy of information provided by a claimant on Form UI-3, Claim for Unemployment Benefits, OMB No. 3220-0022. The form is released by an RRB field office when the office receives information from an outside source that a certain claimant may have engaged in work for a railroad employer on the same day(s) for which he or she claimed unemployment benefits.

Completion of Form ID-49R is self-explanatory. The front side of the form serves as a transmittal letter and also contains instructions to the railroad employer for furnishing the information desired by the field office. In addition, the front side of the form contains two yes/no questions relating to whether a claimant has received pay for time lost and whether the claimant is on a guaranteed pay basis. The reverse side of the form contains a calendar on which the employer is requested to enter, in the appropriate date box, a work status code for the claimant for each day during a particular employment period. For train and engine service employees, the employer is requested to enter in the appropriate date box the miles or hours for which the employee was paid on that date. The claimant's name and social security number on the front side of the form and the claimant identifying information and the employment period for which payroll information is needed are entered by the field office before the form is released. The employer then returns the completed form to the field office in the return envelope provided for this purpose.

If an employer response reveals that a claimant received remuneration for the same day as unemployment benefits were received, the field office then initiates appropriate action

to recover the amounts due from the claimant.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form ID-49R.

Form UI-48, Statement Regarding Benefit Claims for Days Worked is used by the RRB to obtain from the claimant information relevant to whether the benefits were improperly or fraudulently claimed. The information requested on Form UI-48 is obtained by means of an oral interview between the claimant and an RRB field office representative.

Completion of the form is self-explanatory. The claimant identifying information in the upper right-hand corner of the form, the RRB employee's name requested below the form title and the claimant's name in the signature portion of the form are entered by the RRB representative who interviews the claimant.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form UI-48.

To our knowledge no other agency uses forms similar to Forms ID-5i, ID-5R (SUP), ID-49R, ID-49S and UI-48.

3. Planned use of improved information technology or technical/legal impediments to further burden reduction – It is not cost-effective for the RRB to utilize technology in the future for most of the forms due to the low volume. The only form with moderate volume, Form ID-5I, is not a candidate as it is **initiated by the RRB** with pre-filled data. Form ID-5R (SUP) has been relegated a low priority in the RRB's Electronic Employer Reporting Initiative and is not scheduled for automation during the renewal cycle.
4. Efforts to identify duplication - This information collection does not duplicate any other information collection.
5. Small business respondents - Respondents of some forms in the collection can be small businesses. However, the nature and amount of the information requested is such that minimizing the burden for small businesses is not relevant.
6. Consequences of less frequent collection - N.A.
7. Special circumstances - None
8. Public comments/consultations outside the agency - In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d), comments were invited from the public regarding this information collection. The notice to the public was published on pages 66991-66992 of the November 17, 2006, Federal Register. No comments or requests for additional information were received.

9. Payments or gifts to respondents - N.A.
10. Confidentiality - Privacy Act System of Records RRB-6, Unemployment Insurance Record File – RRB and RRB-21, Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Insurance Benefit System - RRB.
11. Sensitive questions - N.A.
12. Estimate of respondent burden -The current burden for the collection (ICR) is unchanged as follows:

Current Burden

Form Number	Annual Responses	Time (Minutes)	Burden(Hours)
*UI-9	800	5	133
*UI-23	600	5	50
*UI-44	150	5	13
*ID-4F	25	5	2
*ID-4U	150	5	13
*ID-4X	100	5	8
*ID-4Y	25	5	2
*ID-20-1	50	5	4
*ID-20-2	100	5	8
*ID-20-4	5	5	1
ID-5I*	4,400 (Private sector) 100(state,local, etc)	15	1,100 25
**ID-5R(SUP)	900	10	150
**ID-49R	250	15	63
****UI-48	250	12	50
Total	7,905		1,622

- * IC-1 - RUIA Continuing Entitlement
- ** IC-2 - RUIA Investigations (private sector respondent)
- *** IC-3 - RUIA Investigations (State, local, tribal governments)

**** IC-4 – Statement Regarding Benefit Claims for Days Worked

13. Estimated annual cost to respondents or record keepers - N.A.
14. Estimate of cost to Federal government - N.A.
15. Explanation for change in burden - N.A.
16. Time schedule for data collection and publication - The results of this collection will not be published.
17. Request not to display OMB expiration date - The forms associated with this collection are low-usage and seldom revised. Given the costs associated with computer programming, redrafting, reprinting, and redistributing the forms in order to keep the appropriate expiration date in place, the RRB requests the authority to not display the expiration date on the forms.
18. Exceptions to Certification Statement - None