

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Employee Benefits Security Administration**

**Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment; Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 91-55 – Transactions Between Individual Retirement Accounts and Authorized Purchasers of American Eagle Coins**

**AGENCY:** Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor

**ACTION:** Notice

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**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor (the Department), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the reporting burden on the public and helps the public understand the Department’s information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. Currently, the Employee Benefits Security Administration is soliciting comments on the proposed extension of the information collection provisions of Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 91-55. A copy of the information collection request (ICR) may be obtained by contacting the office listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the Addresses section on or before [INSERT DATE THAT IS 60 DAYS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Joseph S. Piacentini, Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-8410, FAX (202) 693-4745 (these are not toll-free numbers).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

Prohibited Transaction Exemption 91-55 permits purchases and sales by certain “individual retirement accounts,” as defined in Internal Revenue Code section 408 (IRAs) of American Eagle bullion coins (“Coins”) in principal transactions from or to broker-dealers in Coins that are “authorized purchasers” of Coins in bulk quantities from the United States Mint and which are also “disqualified persons,” within the meaning of Code section 4975(e)(2), with respect to IRAs. The exemption also describes the circumstances under which an interest-free extension of credit in connection with such sales and purchases is permitted. In the absence of an exemption, such purchases and sales and extensions of credit would be impermissible under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Among other conditions, the exemption requires certain information related to covered transactions in Coins must be disclosed by the authorized purchaser to persons who direct the transaction for the IRA. Currently, it is standard industry practice that most of this information is provided to persons directing investments in an IRA when transactions in Coins occur. The exemption also requires that the disqualified person

maintain for a period of at least six years such records as are necessary to allow accredited persons, as defined in the exemption, to determine whether the conditions of the transaction have been met. Finally, an authorized purchaser must provide a confirmation statement with respect to each covered transaction to the person who directs the transaction for the IRA. The requirements constitute information collections within the meaning of the PRA, for which the Department has obtained approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 1210-0079. The OMB approval is currently scheduled to expire on July 31, 2007.

The recordkeeping requirement facilitates the Department's ability to make findings under section 408 of ERISA and section 4975(c) of the Code. The confirmation and disclosure requirements protect a participant or beneficiary who invests in IRAs and transacts in Coins with authorized purchasers by providing the investor or the person directing his or her investments with timely information about the market in Coins and about the individual's account in particular.

## **II. Current Actions.**

This notice requests public comment pertaining to the Department's request for extension of OMB approval of the information collection contained in PTE 91-55. After considering comments received in response to this notice, the Department intends to submit an ICR to OMB for continuing approval. No change to the existing ICR is proposed or made at this time. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is

not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number. A summary of the ICR and the current burden estimates follows:

Agency: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor

Title: Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 91-55

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection of information

OMB Number: 1210-0079

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions

Respondents: 2

Responses: 12,800

Frequency: On occasion

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 554 hours

Estimated Total Burden Cost: \$0

### **III. Focus of Comments**

The Department of Labor (Department) is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., by permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the ICR for OMB approval of the extension of the information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 3, 2007

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Bradford P. Campbell  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Employee Benefits Security Administration

[Billing Code: 4510-29-P]