

Justification  
**Evidence for Application of Overall Minimum**  
RRB Forms G-319 and G-320

1. Circumstances of information collection – Under the provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), there are two types of family benefit payments made involving spouses, widow(ers), children and students:

- Survivors of an eligible employee under Section 2 (d)(1) ; and,
- An increase in the employee's annuity under the Special guaranty computation as prescribed in section 3 (f)(3) and 20 CFR 229

Under Section 3(f)(3) of the RRA, the total monthly benefits payable to a railroad employee and his/her family are guaranteed to be no less than the amount which would be payable if the employee's railroad service had been covered by the Social Security (SS) Act. This is referred to as the Special Guaranty computation or the Retirement Overall Minimum (O/M) provision.

The SS Act might have provided benefits to the spouse(s) and child(ren) described below if the employee's railroad service had been covered by the SS Act. A spouse or child included in the Special Guaranty Computation of the RRA is referred to as an *Ineligible Person Included* (IPI). All persons included in the Special Guaranty computation are referred to as the "family group".

Unlike the SS Act;

- a spouse is never eligible for an RRA annuity before the living employees attains age 62 (or age 60 if the employees had at least 30 years of railroad service). Under the SS Act , If the employee is under age 62, the SS Act allows payment to a spouse is allowed if the wage earner has a disability freeze under Section 223 (c)(1) of the SS Act.
- the RRA does not provide an annuity for a child of a living employee. It does, however, provide a survivor annuity to a child of a deceased employee.

The requirements for eligibility of a child age 18-19, as a student in the Special Guaranty computation cases are prescribed in 20 CFR 216.74 and include students in independent study or home schooling. The evidence for obtaining benefits based on full-time elementary or high school attendance at an educational institution is prescribed in 20 CFR 219.54 and 219.55.

2. Purposes of collecting/consequences of not collecting the information - To administer the Special Guaranty provision, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) needs information about a retired employee's family members. The Special Guaranty ensures that, even though children and young spouses are not paid retirement benefits under the Act, no family will

receive less than would have been payable if the employee were entitled under the SS Act.

The RRB also requires evidence of full-time school attendance at an elementary or high school for a child age 18-19 years old. Such evidence includes a statement from the employee that the student attends an elementary or high school, and a statement from a school official that the attendance is full time according to state law. For students who are home schooled, a statement from the home school teacher fulfills the requirement.

After the employee is awarded benefits, the application is reviewed to see if a spouse or child(ren) are mentioned. If so, the Special Guaranty computation is compared to the railroad rate to see which is higher. If the Special Guaranty is higher, the RRB mails the following forms to the employee to develop the evidence required.

**Form G-319, Statement Regarding Family and Earnings for the Special Guaranty Computation**, is used instead of an RRA annuity application, to obtain the information concerning the relationship between the employee, and the spouse, minor child, disabled child, or student age 18-19 attending an elementary or secondary school. Though it does not establish entitlement to benefits under the RRA, the information is used to determine those eligible to be included in the family group for the Special Guaranty computation under the RRA.

To prove information concerning previous marriages and the current marriage to the employee, an eligible spouse completes Section 3, Information About the Spouse, on Form G-319, which is similar to Section 3 of Form AA-3, Application for Spouse/Divorced Spouse Annuity (OMB 3220-0042). In the rare case where the spouse has already provided this information in Section 3 on *Form AA-3, Application for Spouse/Divorced Spouse Annuity, OMB No. 3220-0042*, completion is not needed. Also, only a spouse who has not filed Form AA-3 completes items 28 and 29 of Form G-319 as any public-service pension received by a spouse affects the Special Guaranty computation.

The employee completes the remaining sections of Form G-319. These sections request information concerning minor children, disabled children, students, earnings of family members and other benefits. If there is an eligible spouse, that spouse will also complete these sections on a separate G-319. This serves as a useful cross-check of information between the employee and spouse, particularly where the employee and spouse are separated.

Before Form G-319 is mailed to the employee, an RRB field office enters the information requested in items 1 and 2 and all identifying information on the accompanying transmittal letter Form RL-319, which list other forms that may be enclosed and may also request various types of documentation needed to support a claim.

**The RRB proposes no changes to Form G-319.**

**Form G-320, Student Questionnaire for Special Guaranty Computation**, is used by the RRB to determine whether the employee annuity may increase by including a child age 18 or

19 in the Special guaranty Computation. An RRB field office completes items 1, 2 and 3 on Form G-320 and all of the identifying information on the accompanying transmittal letter, RL-320 and mails them to the employee. The employee completes Section A of the G-320, before giving it to the student to forward to the school registrar/home-school teacher. The registrar/home-school teacher review the information provided in Section A by the employee, then completes Section B before returning the form to the student, who returns it to the employee. After receiving the G-320 back from the student, the employee completes Sections C and D before returning the completed form, within 30 days, in the return envelope provided for that purpose. If, however, after receiving the G-320 back from the student, the employee completes Form G-319 at the same time, he/she can skip Section C and sign the Employee Certification in Section D before returning it.

Form G-320 is used for student initial entitlement, age 18 attainment, and Special Guaranty student monitoring cases. Special Guaranty student monitoring cases are done on a recurring basis in September, March, and at the end of the year or, if earlier, at attainment of age 19, as part of the RRB's monitoring of a student's continuing eligibility, along with Form G-315 (3220-0123) which is used in all other cases. By periodic monitoring, the RRB maintains up-to-date information about the child's school attendance, which is needed to determine their continued entitlement in the family group for the Special Guaranty computation.

**The RRB proposes no changes to Form G-320.**

**The RRB uses the following non-public use Form Letters as part of the information collection :**

**Form RL-319, Cover Letter for Proposed Form G-319**, is used by the RRB to transmit Form G-319 to an employee and/or spouse and lists other forms that may also be enclosed, that are mentioned on the G-319. Form RL-319 is also used to request various types of documentation needed to support a claim.

**Form RL-320, Cover Letter for Proposed Form G-320**, is used by the RRB to transmit to an employee, the instructions on how to complete and return proposed Form G-320 for Special Guaranty student initial entitlement, age 18 attainment, and student monitoring cases. Form RL-320 is addressed to the employee because the student benefit is paid as an increase to the employee annuity.

Information booklets Form G-179, *Special Guaranty in Employee and Spouse Annuities*, and Form G-316, *Railroad Retirement Benefits for Students Age 18-19 and In Secondary School*, are given to individuals who complete Forms G-319 and G-320. An informational leaflet, Form G-77a, *How the Amount of Earnings Affect Payment of Retirement Annuities*, describing earnings restrictions which apply to annuitants, is also furnished to applicants.

3. Planned use of improved information technology or technical/legal impediments to further burden reduction – Not cost effective due to low volume.

4. Efforts to identify duplication - This information collection does not duplicate any other information collections.
5. Small business respondents - N.A.
6. Consequences of less frequent collection – The G-319 is only completed once. Less frequent use of the proposed G-320 would hamper the RRB’s ability to maintain up-to-date information about the child’s school attendance which is needed to determine their continued entitlement in the family group for the Special Guaranty computation resulting in increased benefit overpayments as well as increase in the resulting debt-collection activity.
7. Special Circumstances - N.A.
8. Public comments/consultations outside the agency - In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d), comments were invited from the public regarding the information collection. The notice to the public was published on pages 76064 and 76065 of the December 15, 2008, Federal Register. No comments or requests for additional information were received.
9. Payments or gifts to respondents - None
10. Confidentiality- Privacy Act System of Records, RRB-22, Railroad Retirement, Survivor and Pensioner Benefits System - RRB.
11. Sensitive questions - N.A.
12. Estimate of respondent burden - We estimate that most Form G-319's are completed without assistance from field office personnel, i.e., self-administered. The current and estimated annual burden for this collection is as follows:

Current Annual Burden

Forms	Responses	Time(Min)	Burden(Hrs)
G-319 (completed by the employee)			
With assistance	100	26	43
Without assistance	5	55	5
G-319 (completed by spouse)			
With assistance	100	30	50
Without assistance	5	60	5
G-320			
(Age 18 at Special Guaranty Begin Date or Special Guaranty Age 18 Attainments)	95	15	24
(Student Monitoring done in Sept, March and at end of school year)	170	15	43

Total	475		170
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Estimated Annual Burden

Forms	Responses	Time(Min)	Burden(Hrs)
G-319 (completed by the employee)			
With assistance	5	26	2
Without assistance	100	55	92
G-319 (when completed by the spouse)			
With assistance	5	30	3
Without assistance	100	60	100
G-320			
Age 18 at Special Guaranty Begin Date or Special Guaranty Age 18 Attainments) (Student Monitoring done in Sept, March and at end of school year)	95	15	24
	170	15	264
Total	475		

Estimated Annual Burden

	Responses	Hours		
	Total burden change	+0		+94
Adjustment	+0	+94		

13. Estimate of annual costs to respondents or record keepers - N.A.
14. Estimated cost to Federal government - N.A.
15. Explanation for changes in burden – The annual responses for “With” and “Without” assistance, were inadvertently reversed previously and therefore produced lower burden figures. The annual responses for the G-319 completed by the employee “Without” assistance, which is currently shown as “5” is actually “100” and “With” assistance, which is currently shown as “100” is actually “5”. The estimated completion times were correct and are unchanged. The annual responses for the G-319 completed by the spouse “Without” assistance, currently shown as “5” is actually “100” and “With” assistance, which is currently shown as “100” is actually “5”. The estimated completion times were correct and are unchanged. The resulting increase in burden of +0 responses and 94 burden hours are shown as an adjustment.
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 G-319 and G-320 are seldom revised. Given the costs associated with redrafting, reprinting, and distributing the forms in order to keep the appropriate OMB expiration date in place, the RRB requests authorization to not

display the expiration date on the forms.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement - None