

**Request for Approval under the “DOL Departmental Generic Clearance for
the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback”
(OMB Control Number: 1225-0088)**

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:

Whistleblower Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Questionnaire

PURPOSE:

U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) intends to conduct a customer satisfaction questionnaire as part of OSHA’s Whistleblower Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (“ADR Program”). The questionnaire is one aspect of a pilot program OSHA is implementing to administer mediation services for its whistleblower complaint activities, which arise out of complaints filed under the whistleblower provisions of the 22 statutes administered by OSHA’s whistleblower program. The ADR Program is designed to assist employers and employees in resolving their disputes (whistleblower complaints) in a cooperative and voluntary manner. In this pilot, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS) is serving as the neutral third party mediator.

The Whistleblower Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Questionnaire (“questionnaire”) is designed to determine the satisfaction level of employees who opt to participate in the mediation services being offered through the ADR Program. Specifically, with this questionnaire, OSHA is looking to see whether respondents are satisfied with the mediation process, the information OSHA provides throughout the mediation process, and the overall procedures of the pilot program. In addition, OSHA will use this questionnaire to help determine what areas of the pilot program need adjustment to better satisfy the employees and employers that opt to engage in mediation through the ADR Program.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:

Questionnaire respondents will include individuals that are employees who have filed whistleblower complaints against their employer, and have voluntarily opted to participate in the ADR Program. The respondents will range from public and private sector employees in healthcare, food, finance, air travel, pipeline, transit, and other industries. OSHA expects most respondents, however, to be employees in the private sector. Respondents will take the questionnaire online after mediation services have been rendered. Each respondent’s respective Regional ADR Coordinator will provide the link to the questionnaire via email after the mediation.

TYPE OF COLLECTION: (Check one)

- Customer Comment Card/Complaint Form
- Usability Testing (e.g., Website or Software)
- Focus Group

- Customer Satisfaction Survey
- Small Discussion Group
- Other: _____

CERTIFICATION:

I certify the following to be true:

1. The collection is voluntary.
2. The collection is low-burden for respondents and low-cost for the Federal Government.
3. The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other federal agencies.
4. The results are not intended to be disseminated to the public.
5. Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions.
6. The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the future.

Name: Laura Seeman, Chief, Division of Operations, Office of the Whistleblower Protection Program

To assist review, please provide answers to the following question:

Personally Identifiable Information:

1. Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected? [] Yes [X] No
2. If Yes, is the information that will be collected included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974? [] Yes [] No NA
3. If Applicable, has a System or Records Notice been published? [] Yes [] No NA

Gifts or Payments:

Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants? [] Yes [X] No

BURDEN HOURS

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Participation Time	Burden
Individuals	30	30 minutes	15
Totals	30	30 minutes	15 hours

OSHA seeks approval to send this customer feedback questionnaire to parties who elect and are selected to participate in 30 pilot mediations. In most cases, a mediation will involve one employee and one employer from either the private, Federal government or State, local or tribal government sectors. Thus, the Agency is submitting separate generic clearance requests for four categories: 1) individuals/workers; 2) private sector employers; 3) State, local or tribal government employers, and 4) Federal government employers. The Agency has no way to determine how many of the 30 mediations will involve the different categories of employers. While the Agency expects that most mediations will involve private sector employers only, the Agency is accounting for the possibility that some mediations could involve either a Federal or State/local/tribal government employer. Thus, the Agency intentionally included overestimations of 30 responses for the Federal and State/local/tribal government employer categories, respectively. It is possible that multiple private sector employers may participate in one mediation; therefore, in the request for clearance of collection of questionnaire

feedback from private sector employers, the Agency has included additional responses, burden hours and cost to account for this possibility.

FEDERAL COST:

OSHA estimates that a Program Analyst (GS-09, step 1), with an hourly wage rate of \$24.74,¹ will spend about 8 hours developing the questionnaire, and spends another hour posting the questionnaire to Survey Monkey. In addition, a Program Analyst (GS-11, step 1), with an hourly wage of \$29.93,² will perform data analysis related to the questionnaire for approximately 8 hours. Therefore, the total annual cost of these paperwork requirements to the Federal government is:

Questionnaire Development

8 hours of GS-9, Step 1 time x \$24.74/hour = \$198

Post to Survey Monkey

1 hour of GS-9, Step 1 time x \$24.74/hour = \$25

The Survey Monkey Basic Account is free of charge.

Data Analysis

8 hours of GS-11, Step 1 time x \$29.93/hour = \$239

Total Cost to the Federal Government = \$462

If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:

The selection of your targeted respondents

1. Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?
NA [] Yes [] No

1 Source: U.S. Office of Personnel Management, *General Schedule and Locality Tables, Salary Table 2012-DCB*, http://www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/html/dcb_h.asp .

2 Source: U.S. Office of Personnel Management, *General Schedule and Locality Tables, Salary Table 2012-DCB*, http://www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/html/dcb_h.asp .

If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan)? If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them?

NA

Administration of the Instrument

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)
 - Web-based or other forms of Social Media
 - Telephone
 - In-person
 - Mail
 - Other, Explain

2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used? Yes No

Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.

Instructions for completing Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback”

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION: Provide the name of the collection that is the subject of the request. (e.g. Comment card for soliciting feedback on xxxx)

PURPOSE: Provide a brief description of the purpose of this collection and how it will be used. If this is part of a larger study or effort, please include this in your explanation.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Provide a brief description of the targeted group or groups for this collection of information. These groups must have experience with the program.

TYPE OF COLLECTION: Check one box. If you are requesting approval of other instruments under the generic, you must complete a form for each instrument.

CERTIFICATION: Please read the certification carefully. If you incorrectly certify, the collection will be returned as improperly submitted or it will be disapproved.

Personally Identifiable Information: Provide answers to the questions.

Gifts or Payments: If you answer yes to the question, please describe the incentive and provide a justification for the amount.

BURDEN HOURS:

Category of Respondents: Identify who you expect the respondents to be in terms of the following categories: (1) Individuals or Households;(2) Private Sector; (3) State, local, or tribal governments; or (4) Federal Government. Only one type of respondent can be selected.

No. of Respondents: Provide an estimate of the Number of respondents.

Participation Time: Provide an estimate of the amount of time required for a respondent to participate (e.g. fill out a survey or participate in a focus group)

Burden: Provide the Annual burden hours: Multiply the Number of responses and the participation time and divide by 60.

FEDERAL COST: Provide an estimate of the annual cost to the Federal government.

If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:

The selection of your targeted respondents. Please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them. If the answer is yes, to the first question, you may provide the sampling plan in an attachment.

Administration of the Instrument: Identify how the information will be collected. More than one box may be checked. Indicate whether there will be interviewers (e.g. for surveys) or facilitators (e.g., for focus groups) used.

Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.