

**Supporting Statement for Form SSA-7011,
Statement of Employer
20 CFR 404.801 – 404.803
OMB# 960-0030**

A. Justification

1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations

Section 205(c)(2)(A) of the *Social Security Act (Act)* charges the Commissioner with establishing and maintaining records of the amounts of wages paid to, and the amounts of self-employment income derived by individuals. Section 205(d) of the *Act* provides the authority for the Social Security Administration (SSA) to issue a subpoena if an employer refuses to furnish the requested information. Regulations at 20 *CFR* 404.801- 404.802 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* describe the procedures SSA uses to implement section 205(c)(2)(A) of the *Act*. 20 *CFR* 404.803 explains that the amounts of earnings credited to an individual and the periods to which earnings are credited, may be proven by the records of SSA, and by other evidence of value, such as a statement from an employer.

2. Description of Collection

SSA uses Form SSA-7011-F4 to substantiate allegations of wages paid to workers when those wages do not appear in SSA's records of earnings and the worker does not have proof of those earnings. SSA uses the information to process claims for Social Security benefits and to resolve discrepancies in the individual's Social Security earnings record. We only send Form SSA-7011-F4 to employers if we deem it necessary; in many situations, we are able to locate the earnings information within our records without having to contact the employer. The respondents are employers who can verify wage allegations made by wage earners.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

Due to limited resources, and agency priorities to convert higher-volume forms to electronic media before we work on lower-volume forms, we have not, yet, scheduled this form for electronic implementation under the Government Paperwork Elimination Act.

4. Why We Cannot Use Duplicate Information

The nature of the information we are collecting and the manner in which we are collecting it preclude duplication. SSA does not use another collection instrument to obtain similar data.

5. Minimizing Burden on Small Respondents

Per SSA's policy, we do not request wage data from an employer unless the individual is unable to furnish wage evidence. This minimizes the burden on small businesses.

- 6. Consequence of Not Collecting Information or Collecting it Less Frequently**
If SSA did not collect this information, it could result in incorrect payments or incorrect denials of benefits to the public. Since we only collect this information when we need to verify or correct the earnings record, we cannot collect it less frequently. There are no technical or legal obstacles to burden reduction.
- 7. Special Circumstances**
There are no special circumstances that would cause SSA to conduct this information collection in a manner inconsistent with 5 *CFR* 1320.5.
- 8. Solicitation of Public Comment and Other Consultations with the Public**
The 60-day advance Federal Register Notice published on July 9, 2012, at 77 FR 40400, and we received no public comments. SSA published the second Notice on September 28, 2012, at 77 FR 59690. If we receive comments in response to the 30-day Notice, we will forward them to OMB. We did not consult with the public in the revision of this form.
- 9. Payment or Gifts to Respondents**
SSA does not provide payments or gifts to the respondents.
- 10. Assurances of Confidentiality**
SSA protects and holds confidential the information it collects in accordance with 42 *U.S.C.* 1306, 20 *CFR* 401 and 402, 5 *U.S.C.* 552 (Freedom of Information Act), 5 *U.S.C.* 552a (Privacy Act of 1974), and OMB Circular No. A-130.
- 11. Justification for Sensitive Questions**
The information collection does not contain any questions of a sensitive nature.
- 12. Estimates of Public Reporting Burden**
Approximately 462,000 respondents take 20 minutes to complete form SSA-7011 each year. The total burden for this ICR is 154,000 hours. This figure represents burden hours, and we did not calculate a separate cost burden.
- 13. Annual Cost to the Respondents (Other)**
This collection does not impose a known cost burden on the respondents.
- 14. Annual Cost To Federal Government**
The annual cost to the Federal Government is approximately \$1,428,000. This estimate is a projection of the costs for printing and distributing the collection instrument, and for collecting the information.
- 15. Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request**
The reduction in burden hours stems from a decrease in the number of respondents. In addition, employers' increase use of electronic reporting during the Annual Wage reporting process increased the speed at which SSA posts earnings,

recognizes, and corrects errors in employer reports. Consequently, the incidence of erroneous postings on SSA's earnings records substantially decreased within the past three years. Finally, within the past several years, SSA streamlined development requirements for identifying and resolving potential earnings errors when an individual contacts SSA alleging incorrect earnings on their record. As a result, we decreased use of form SSA-7011.

16. Plans for Publication Information Collection Results

SSA will not publish the results of the information collection.

17. Displaying the OMB Approval Expiration Date

OMB granted SSA an exemption from the requirement to print the OMB expiration date on its program forms. SSA produces millions of public-use forms with life cycles exceeding those of an OMB approval. Since SSA does not periodically revise and reprint its public-use forms (e.g., on an annual basis), OMB granted this exemption so SSA would not have to destroy stocks of otherwise useable forms with expired OMB approval dates, avoiding Government waste.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement

SSA is not requesting an exception to the certification requirements at 5 *CFR* 1320.9 and related provisions at 5 *CFR* 1320.8(b)(3).

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

SSA does not use statistical methods for this information collection.