

**Supporting Statement for the SSA-1199-(Country)
International Direct Deposit
31 CFR 210
OMB No. 0960-0686**

A. Justification

1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations

The Code of Federal Regulations, Section 31 *CFR* 210, authorizes the Social Security Administration (SSA) to use Form SSA-1199-(Country) to gather information for directly depositing benefit payments into a beneficiary's account at a financial institution outside the United States. Although the form contains the same generic information for all countries, the bank data varies slightly for each country. Therefore, we gear the form to each specific country for which International Direct Deposit (IDD) is available. We name each form according to the country, such as "SSA-1199-Canada." Each form always contains the same basic request for information. Currently IDD is available in 55 countries. We are working with the U.S. Department of the Treasury to expand IDD to other countries in compliance with Treasury's All-Electronic Payment Initiative. The only authorization SSA needs for countries participating in IDD is permission from the beneficiary to allow SSA to deposit their monthly payments electronically into the bank. Attached to this request, as a supplementary document, is a list of the countries and languages, as well as the variable information we may request on the form.

2. Description of Collection

SSA uses Form SSA-1199-(Country) to obtain the direct deposit information for foreign accounts, and enroll title II beneficiaries residing abroad in IDD. Routing account number information varies slightly for each foreign country, so for each country we use our own variation of the Treasury Department's Form SF-1199A, used to enroll a beneficiary in direct deposit to a U.S. financial institution. We now have 92 percent of all foreign Title II beneficiaries enrolled in direct deposit. Although SSA does not require the use of a form to sign up for direct deposit either in the U.S. or abroad, we use Form SSA-1199-(Country) to notify all check receivers in a given country of IDD's availability and the offer of a safe way to receive their benefits. The beneficiary mails the completed form to the SSA office listed on the form. There are currently 58 versions of this form (three countries have two versions each – their native language and English). For the purposes of this clearance, we are attaching a copy of a model form, SSA-1199-(Country), to illustrate the basic information we collect. The respondents are Social Security beneficiaries residing abroad who want SSA to deposit their benefits payments directly to a foreign financial institution.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

Form SSA-1199-(Country) is not currently available electronically, as SSA prioritizes the collections which will become electronic, and higher volume collections as well as legally mandated collections take precedence to this one. However, the form is currently available as a PDF on SSA's website. A respondent must download the form, print it, fill out a portion, have their financial institution fill out a portion, and mail it to SSA for

processing. We also offer beneficiaries the option of enrolling to the IDD program through Quick\$start which we cleared under a separate OMB control number (0960-0564), and we recently added the IDD questions to SSA's iClaim Internet Social Security Benefit Application (0960-0618). However, our current research shows users of the iClaim IDD process continue to use the paper Form SSA-1199-(Country) to aid them while filling out the iClaim Internet screens. Therefore, until further developments with the electronic IDD process make it easier for Internet users to complete the iClaim screens without the assistance of the paper form, we will continue to provide the paper form for use in tandem with iClaim IDD responses.

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

This collection does not affect small businesses or other small entities.

6. Consequence of Not Collecting Information or Collecting it Less Frequently

If SSA did not collect this information, we would be unable to offer a direct deposit option to beneficiaries living abroad. Since the collection of this information is voluntary, we cannot collect it less frequently.

There are no legal or technical obstacles that prevent 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 January 08, 2013, at 78 FR 1296, and we received no public comments. SSA published the second Notice on April 02, 2013, at 78 FR 19794. 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 of Gifts to Respondents

SSA provides no 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

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden Per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-1199-(Country)	5,000	1	5	417

Approximately 5,000 respondents take 5 minutes per request to complete this form per year. Accordingly, the burden is 417 hours. This figure represents burden hours, and we did not calculate a separate cost burden.

13. Annual Cost to the Respondents

There is no known cost burden to the respondents.

14. Annual Cost to the Federal Government

The annual cost to the Federal Government is approximately \$20,000. There is no cost to the federal government to print this form, as each respondent must download the form, fill it out, print it, and mail it to SSA. However, we estimate our cost based on processing time.

15. Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request

There are no changes in the public reporting burden.

16. Plans for Publication Information Collection Results

SSA will not publish the results of the information collection.

17. Displaying the OMB Approval Expiration Date

SSA is not requesting an exception to the requirement to display the OMB approval expiration date.

18. Exception 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.