

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Part A. Justification:

1. The Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) is requesting a three-year extension of OMB Control No. 3060-0106 titled, “Part 43 Reporting Requirements for U.S. Providers of International Telecommunications Services and Affiliates; 47 CFR 43.61.

The reporting requirements for which the Commission is seeking a three year approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are as follows:

47 CFR 43.61: Reports of international telecommunications traffic

(a) Each common carrier engaged in providing international telecommunications service between the United States (as defined in the Communications Act, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 153) and any country or point outside that area shall file a report with the Commission not later than July 31 of each year for service actually provided in the preceding calendar year.

(1) The information contained in the reports shall include actual traffic and revenue data for each and every service provided by a common carrier, divided among service billed in the United States, service billed outside the United States, and service transiting the United States.

(2) Each common carrier shall submit a revised report by October 31 identifying any inaccuracies included in the annual report exceeding five percent of the reported figure.

(3) The information required under this section shall be furnished in conformance with the instructions and reporting requirements prepared under the direction of the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, prepared and published as a manual, in consultation and coordination with the Chief, International Bureau.

The Commission has authority for this information collection pursuant Sections 1, 4(i), 4(j) 11, 201-205, 211, 214, 219, 220, 303(r), 309, and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i), 154(j), 161, 201-205, 211, 214, 219, 220, 303(r), 309 and 403.

This information collection does not affect individuals or household; thus, there are no impacts under the Privacy Act.

2. The Commission has a responsibility under the Communications Act to make available world-wide communications with adequate facilities at reasonable charges. The Commission's primary goal underlying the reporting requirements for international carriers has been and continues to be the protection of U.S. consumers and carriers from potential harm caused by instances of insufficient competition caused by the exercise of market power by foreign incumbent carriers. The Commission's goals in regulating the U.S.-international marketplace have been (1) to promote effective competition in the global market for communications services; (2) to prevent anticompetitive conduct in the provision of international services or facilities; and, (3) to encourage foreign governments to open their communications markets. The Commission's ability to respond to failures in the U.S.-international market depends upon having adequate information about the market.

The Commission uses information from the Section 43.61(a) traffic and revenue report to analyze the U.S. international telecommunications market, track market developments, and to determine the competitiveness of each service and geographical market. Furthermore, the Commission uses the report to formulate rules and policies consistent with the public interest, to monitor compliance with those rules and policies, and to gauge the competitive effect of Commission decisions on the international market. Moreover, the reports provide a means by which to determine whether a U.S. carrier's foreign-carrier correspondents are engaging in anti-competitive conduct.

3. Carriers submit information on a commercially available spreadsheet program. Currently, facilities-based and facilities-resale carriers submit the Section 43.61 data on CDs that are fully IBM compatible. Pure switched resale carriers have the option of filing the required data on paper. Facilities-based and facilities-resale carriers are required to file hard copies of their submission with the agency. Due to the requirement that carriers must file hard copies of their reports with the Commission, it is estimated that 50 percent of information is collected electronically by the agency.

4. This information collection requirement is not duplicated elsewhere in the Commission's rules.

5. Through previous rulemakings and ongoing regulatory reviews, the Commission has modernized and, where possible, streamlined the international reporting requirements in order to make it easier for small entities to file traffic and revenue reports.

6. If the information collection were not conducted or were conducted less frequently, the Commission would not be able to ensure compliance with its international rules and policies.

Furthermore, the Commission would not have sufficient information to take measures to prevent anticompetitive conduct in the provision of international communications services. The Commission would not have adequate information to respond to failures in the U.S.-international market. The Commission would not be able to promote effective competition in the global market for communications services. The lack of effective competition would adversely affect the U.S. revenues in the telecommunications industry. The agency would not be able to comply with the international regulations stated in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Basic Telecom Agreement. Carriers and other entities outside the Commission, such as other government agencies, international organizations, and academia, use the information to analyze industry trends. Other government agencies use the information in merger analyses and negotiations with foreign countries. If the information collection was not conducted, carriers, government agencies and other entities would not have accurate industry data available in order to conduct analyses.

7. Currently, facilities-based and facilities-resale carriers are required to file three paper copies and three CDs containing the required data. The paper copies must contain data that is identical to the data filed on the CDs. Two copies (one copy of the paper submission and one of the CD) are used by the Commission's copy contractor. Carriers that provide only pure switched resale services are not required to file data on CDs.
8. On March 19, 2014, the Commission published a 60-day notice (79 FR 15339) in the Federal Register to solicit comments from the public. No comments were received from the public in response to the notice.
9. The Commission will not provide any payment or gift to respondents.
10. The Commission has generally treated the information submitted pursuant to Section 43.61 as non-confidential. However, under Section 0.459 of the Commission's rules, carriers may request proprietary treatment for specific pieces of information, such as information on transit traffic.

At present, the Commission allows carriers to report information regarding their country-direct, country-beyond and reoriginated IMTS traffic under a series of proprietary billing codes that are not routinely made available to the public. The Commission requires the carrier also to file a second version of their traffic and revenue report, which the Commission designates as a carrier's "public report," in which the carriers can combine the information they provided under the proprietary billing codes with their other traffic to a particular destination, thereby masking the sensitive information.

In the interest of public access to information, even where the Commission grants a request to keep a particular piece of information confidential, the agency proposed to include that information in the industry-wide totals it compiles in the annual International Telecommunications Data Reports.

Section 0.457(d)(1)(viii) provides confidential treatment for the information so identified. Beyond that, filing entities that seek to protect the confidentiality of particular data elements may request such treatment under section 0.459 of the Commission's rules. That rule requires such a carrier to justify fully its request for confidentiality by providing enough information for the Commission to determine the need for confidential treatment. The Commission directs the International Bureau to act upon such requests at the time they are filed.

The rule requires a carrier requesting confidentiality to submit an unredacted version of its data, as well as a redacted version to be made publicly available. Should the Commission decide to grant a request for confidential treatment of information that does not fall within a specific exemption pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), that Act requires the Commission to disclose publicly the information upon an appropriate request. The Commission may grant requests for confidential treatment either conditionally or unconditionally. As such, the Commission has the discretion to release on public interest grounds information that does fall within the scope of a FOIA exemption. The Commission is requesting public comment on the granting of confidential treatment for particular pieces of data in the annual traffic and revenue or circuit-status reports.

11. The information collection covered by this Supporting Statement does not contain any questions that seek sensitive personal information.

12. Estimate of Burden Hours for Respondents is as follows: Please see the charts below for the explanation of burden estimates, number of annual responses, frequency of response, time per response and annual burden hours for the **1,255 respondents** to this information collection.

Explanation of Burden Estimate	Number of Responses	Frequenc y of Response	Time Per Response	Annual Burden Hours
47 CFR 43.61(a)(1) Reports of International Telecommunications Traffic including actual traffic and revenue data for each and every services provided by a common carrier divided among service billed in the U.S., service billed outside of the U.S., and service transiting the U.S.	77 * 1,175 **	Annual Annual	220 hours 2 hours	16,940 hours 2,350 hours
47 CFR 43.61(a)(2) Each common carrier shall submit a revised report by October 31 identifying and correcting any inaccuracies included in the annual report exceeding five percent of the reported figure.	3	Annual	80 hours	240 hours
Totals:	1,255			

Providers

OMB Control No. 3060-0106

Part 43 Reporting Requirements for U.S.
of International Telecommunications Services and
Affiliates; [47 CFR 43.61](#)

May 2014

Responses

19,530 Hours

* 77 is the number of facilities-based carriers that have to file country-by-country traffic and revenue information = 77 reports filed annually

** 1,175 is the number of resale carriers that file worldwide traffic and revenue information = 1,175 reports filed annually

In-House Costs:

The hourly rate for in-house staff is estimated at \$57.70 per hour which is equivalent to the hourly rate for a GS-14/Step 5 Federal government employee. Therefore, the in-house costs are calculated as follows:

19,530 hours X \$57.70 hourly rate = **\$1,126,881**.

13. The estimate of costs for the respondents is as follows:

(a) Start-Up Costs: Zero

(b) Operations and Maintenance Costs: **\$339,000**

Description	Annual Responses	Costs per Hour	Hourly Processing per Response	Total
Outside Legal Counsel ¹	1,130	\$300 per hour (Based on industry survey)	1 hour/response	\$339,000 (O&M)

Total Annual Costs: \$339,000

¹ It is estimated that respondents will need assistance from outside legal counsel with 90% of the filings (1,255 x 90% = 1,130 filings).

14. The annualized costs to the Federal government are as follows:

Government Staff	Annual Burden Hours	Costs
GS-15/Step 5 Hourly Rate: \$67.88	Review and Process 10% of the filings = 126 filings	\$8,552.88
GS-13/Step 5 Hourly Rate: \$48.83	Review and Process 90% of the filings = 1,129 filings	\$55,129.07
Total Cost to Federal Government:		\$63,681.87

Please note that the annualized costs to the Federal government reflect an increase in the hourly rate for GS-15/Step 5 employees consistent with the 2014 Federal salary table from \$67.21 per hour to \$67.88 per hour. Additionally, the GS-13/Step 5 hourly rate increased from \$48.35 to \$48.83 per hour. As a result, the annualized costs increased by a total of \$626.26 from \$63,055.61 to \$63,681.87. These salary changes do not impact the cost burden in this information collection because OMB does not require annualized costs to the Federal government to be calculated in the Supporting Statement.

15. There are no program changes or adjustments to the annual burden hours or cost for this information collection.

16. The data will not be published for statistical use.

17. The Commission is requesting a waiver to not display the OMB control number and expiration date on the Section 43.61 manual used by carriers in submitting the information. This will alleviate the Commission from having to update the OMB expiration date on the manual whenever it is resubmitted to OMB. The Commission will use an edition date in lieu of the OMB expiration date. Finally, all OMB-approved information collections (including this one) will be published in 47 CFR 0.408 that “displays” the title, OMB control number and OMB expiration date.

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18. There are no other exceptions to the Certification Statement.

Part B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods:

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.