

Justification for Non-Substantive Changes for Form SSA-2512
Pre-1957 Military Service Federal Benefit Questionnaire
20 CFR 404.1301-404.1371
OMB No. 0960-0120

Background

SSA may grant gratuitous military wage credits for active military or naval service (under certain conditions) during the period September 16, 1940 through December 31, 1956, if no other Federal agency (other than the Veterans Administration) credited the service for benefit eligibility or computation purposes.

We use Form SSA-2512 to collect specific information about other Federal, military, or civilian benefits the wage earner may receive when the applicant indicates both pre-1957 military service and the receipt of a Federal benefit. SSA uses the data in the claims adjudication process to grant gratuitous military wage credits when applicable, and to solicit sufficient information to determine eligibility. At this time, claimants must print the blank PDF and fill it out using pen & ink, or they need to use a typewriter to complete the form. As some handwriting is difficult to read, or illegible, these non-fillable versions of the form are inefficient and ineffective since SSA employees who cannot read the submitted form must re-contact the respondent prior to processing. In addition, the use of typewriters has decreased significantly, as other tools, such as personal computing devices, have increased in use.

SSA developed a fillable, printable version of the SSA-2512, as some individuals may find it easier to use. The fillable version allows the respondents to complete the form electronically using a personal computer, or other computing device, print the completed form, and submit it to SSA. We developed this fillable version, as we want to ensure SSA provides effective communication and remains in compliance with the requirements of 45 CFR 85.51 of the Code of Federal Regulations and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We propose the fillable PDF version as a more accessible modality. In addition, the new fillable modality will enhance our electronic services and recordkeeping efforts.

Revisions to the Information Collection

SSA intends to provide Form SSA-2512 in a fillable PDF file on our website, in place of the non-fillable PDF version we currently provide. We propose to make all form entries fillable. This change will allow the respondents to continue to print and complete the form by hand, or, alternatively, complete the form using a computing device, such as a personal computer or handheld (mobile) device, print, and submit to SSA for processing.

After OMB approves the addition of the new fillable version of the form, SSA will phase out the standard PDF versions from our Internet and Intranet websites and replace them with the fillable PDF file.

This action does not affect the public reporting burden.