

Supporting Statement for SSA-7163A-FA
Supplemental Statement Regarding Farming Activities of Person Living Outside the U.S.A.
OMB No. 0960-0103

A. Justification

1. **Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations**
Section 205(a) of the *Social Security Act (Act)* empowers the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (SSA) to make rules and regulations, and establish procedures necessary to determine an individual's rights to benefits. Section 203(c) of the *Act* requires the Commissioner to make deductions from benefits of entitled individuals who engage in remunerative activity outside the United States (U.S.) for more than 45 hours per month. To determine if someone is subject to this work test, SSA needs the dates of work; information to distinguish between employer and employee; and information to distinguish a farm operation from a rental or farm property. We design all questions to elicit a full description of the enterprise.
2. **Description of Collection**
When a beneficiary or claimant reports farm work from outside the United States, SSA documents this work on Form SSA-7163A-F4. Specifically, SSA uses the form to determine if we should apply foreign work deductions to the recipient's Title II benefits. We collect the information either annually or every other year, depending on the respondent's country of residence. Respondents are Social Security recipients engaged in farming activities outside the United States.
3. **Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information**
SSA did not create an electronic version of Form SSA-7163A under the agency's Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) plan because only 1,000 respondents complete the form annually. This is less than the GPEA cut-off of 50,000.
4. **Why We Cannot Use Duplicate Information**
The nature of the information we collect and the manner in which we collect it preclude duplication. SSA does not use another collection instrument to obtain similar data
5. **Minimizing Burden on Small Respondents**
This collection does not significantly affect small businesses or other small entities.
6. **Consequence of Not Collecting Information or Collecting it Less Frequently**
If we did not use Form SSA-7163A-FA, SSA would be unable to determine whether to apply foreign work deductions. Because we collect the information on an as needed basis, 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 January 19, 2016, at 81 FR 2938, and we received no public comments. The 30-day FRN published on March 24, 2016 at 81 FR 15774. If we receive any comments in response to this Notice, we will forward them to OMB. We did not consult with the public in the revision of this form.

9. **Payments 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**

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden Per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-7163A-F4	1,000	1	60	1,000

The total burden for this ICR is 1,000 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 \$1,540. This estimate is a projection of the cost for printing and distributing the collection instrument and for collecting the information.

15. **Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request**

There are no changes to 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**

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.