

Supporting Statement for
Paperwork Reduction Act Submission

Waybill Compliance Survey

A. Justification

1. Need for Information

The Surface Transportation Board is, by statute, responsible for the economic regulation of common carrier railroads operating in the United States. A carload waybill, which is a document describing the characteristics of an individual rail shipment, identifies originating and terminating freight stations, the names of line haul railroads participating in the movement, the point of all railroad interchanges, the number of cars, the car types, the movement weight, and the commodity. Under 49 C.F.R. Part 1244, a railroad is required to file carload waybill sample information (Waybill Sample) for all line-haul revenue waybills terminating on its lines if, in any of the three preceding years, it terminated 4500 or more carloads, or it terminated at least 5% of the total revenue carloads that terminate in a particular state. The Waybill Sample is the Board's primary means of gathering information about freight rail shipments terminated in the United States.

The Waybill Compliance Survey, for which approval is sought here, is required to be filed by all railroads that terminate traffic in the United States but do not currently submit Waybill Samples. The survey requirement, codified at 49 C.F.R. § 1244.2(f), enables the Board to identify those railroads that should be submitting an annual Waybill Sample. In addition, the Board collects information about a rail carrier's total annual operating revenues, which helps the Board determine whether other regulatory requirements may apply. The Board has authority to collect this information under 49 U.S.C. § 11145.

2. Use of Data Collected

The Waybill Compliance Survey is used to determine whether a railroad meets the criteria established at 49 C.F.R. § 1244 and ensures that the Board is collecting a Waybill Sample from all railroads that are required to submit one. The information in the survey also provides a measure of the total traffic covered by the Waybill Sample. The annual operating revenue information is collected on a voluntary basis and helps the Board anticipate what other regulatory provisions may apply to a particular carrier. A carrier's total operating revenue often determines whether a particular regulation will apply.

3. Reduction Through Improved Technology

The Board will accept filing by email and fax, and the Board will email the form to any railroad that supplies its email address.

4. Identification of Duplication

This information is not duplicated by any other agency. The Board is the only source of waybill information.

5. Minimizing Burden for Small Businesses

The survey does not require special record keeping and takes less than 0.5 hours to complete.

6. Frequency Reduction Consequences

Our regulations require respondents to complete the Waybill Survey on an annual basis. Less frequent submission of the survey might result in failure to identify a railroad that should be required to submit a Waybill Sample for a particular year.

7. Special Circumstances

Not applicable.

8. Consultation Outside Agency

The Board provided a 60-day comment period regarding this extension of approval in 77 Fed. Reg. 27279 (May 9, 2012). In addition, a Federal Register notice seeking comments from respondents is being published simultaneously with this submission.

9. Payment or Gift

No payment or gift is made in connection with this survey form.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

All data pertaining to this form are open to public inspection.

11. Sensitive Information

This form does not collect sensitive information.

12. Estimated Burden Hours.

The Board estimates that 120 railroads will respond to this survey, and based on a survey of responders, the Board estimates that it will take each respondent approximately one half hour to complete and process the survey form, resulting in a total annual hourly burden of 60 hours.

13. Non-hourly Costs to Respondents

There are no non-hourly burdens for respondents. This form may be filed electronically.

14. Annualized Cost To the Federal Government

The Board estimates the annual cost of this collection to be \$492 including \$350 for the administration of the collection by the contractor that also administers the waybill-sample collection and the cost of two staff hours (GS-14-5 at \$70.84 hourly wage, including benefits) to review the annual operating-revenue data.

15. Explanation of Program Changes or Adjustments

There are not program changes or adjustments.

16. Publication of Data and/or Results

No data from this survey form will be published.

17. Display of Expiration date for OMB approval

Expiration date is displayed.

18. Exceptions to the Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

Not applicable.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Not Applicable.