



U.S. Department
of Transportation


**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 28, 2017

To: Chad Lallemand, Desk Officer Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

From: Sarah L. Inderbitzin, FRA
Acting Chief Counsel 

Subject: OMB Emergency Clearance for Collection of Information under Paperwork Reduction Act for Accident/Incident Reporting and Recordkeeping

SUMMARY

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeks emergency clearance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a 30-day extension of OMB control number 2130-0500 (Accident/Incident Reporting and Recordkeeping).

DISCUSSION

FRA seeks approval for emergency processing of this submission of authorization to collect information from railroad carriers reporting accident/incidents; and injuries to passengers, employees, and other persons on railroad property under 49 CFR part 225 (Railroad Accidents/Incidents: Reports Classification, and Investigations).

FRA collects accident/incident data from the railroads monthly, including information on injuries and fatalities that have occurred, under 49 CFR part 225. These records establish a database that is fundamental to track railroads' safety and monitor risks to public safety. Congress recognized the importance of collecting data on railroad accidents and incidents when it first mandated its reporting to the Interstate Commerce Commission over 100 years ago in the

Accident Reports Act of 1910. FRA's inability to require railroads to report this data would significantly impair FRA's collection of accurate and timely information on railroad accidents and injuries and would significantly impact the completeness and accuracy of FRA's safety database, which drives FRA's safety inspection activity and other safety program initiatives.

FRA's authorization to collect this type of information related to safe railroad operations under OMB control number 2130-0500 expires on February 28, 2017. Due to the change in presidential administrations, FRA was unable to publish a Federal Register notice in a timely manner to provide a 30-day comment period upon renewal of this control number. FRA will send the 30-day notice to the Federal Register tomorrow, on March 1, 2017. FRA seeks an emergency 30-day extension of OMB control number 2130-0500 so that the agency has an opportunity to submit a renewal for this information collection request without the disruption caused by an expired OMB control number.

Accordingly, the FRA is seeking emergency clearance for this information collection pursuant to 5 CFR § 1320.13. The information collection is needed prior to the time periods established in 5 CFR part 1320 and is essential to the FRA's mission of providing for a safe and reliable transportation system in a transparent manner. The agency cannot comply with the normal Paperwork Reduction Act clearance procedures because doing so would disrupt the collection of information currently conducted under OMB control number 2130-0500 as this control number will expire before publication of the 30-day Federal Register notice. This expiration would cause public harm by adversely affecting the FRA's ability to continue to monitor railroad-related accidents and incidents, and conditions which pose risk to public safety. Additionally, FRA would not be able to efficiently direct its resources to address these safety risks.

To ensure that FRA has the continued capability to expeditiously collect accident/incident data, and information on injuries and fatalities in support of its mission, it is imperative that the FRA receive a 30-day extension from OMB for OMB control number 2130-0500.