



U.S. Department
of Transportation

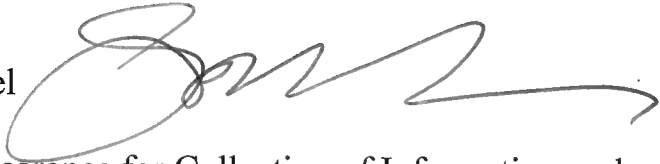
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 28, 2017

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

From: Sarah L. Inderbitzin
Acting Chief Counsel 

Subject: OMB Emergency Clearance for Collection of Information under
Paperwork Reduction Act for Passenger Train Emergency Systems

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 2130-0576.

Discussion

FRA seeks approval for emergency processing of this submission of authorization to collect information from railroads essential to the proper display and maintenance of markings, signage, and other instructions necessary for the safety of passengers and train crewmembers in a passenger train emergency under 49 CFR part 238 (Passenger Equipment Safety Standards).

FRA's requirements for passenger train emergency systems were strongly influenced by the tragic accident in Silver Spring, MD, in 1996 in which a MARC commuter train collided with an Amtrak passenger train. Eleven lives were lost when the collision and resulting fire trapped occupants in the MARC train, and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) found that lack of appropriate regulations to ensure adequate emergency egress features (including signage and instructions) contributed to the severity of the accident and loss of

life. FRA addressed this NTSB recommendation by establishing comprehensive regulations for passenger equipment safety (49 CFR part 238) in 1999. This regulation also implemented a Congressional mandate in the Federal Railroad Safety Authorization Act of 1994 to establish regulations for the safety of passenger cars.

The collection of information is used by members of the rail traveling public and railroad employees to safely and quickly exit passenger train cars in a collision, derailment, fire, or other emergency situation. The collection of information is also used by emergency responders to swiftly locate, and understand how to operate, passenger car emergency access doors and windows to rescue train occupants. Together, quick egress of rail passengers and employees, and quick ingress by emergency responders in an emergency situation, save lives and minimize the number and severity of injuries.

FRA's authorization to collect this information under OMB control number 2130-0576 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 forward the 30-day notice to the Office of the Federal Register on March 1. FRA seeks an emergency 30-day extension of OMB control number 2130-0576 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, FRA is seeking emergency clearance for this information collection request 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 FRA's mission of providing a safe railroad system. 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 2130-0576 as this control number will expire prior to publication of the 30-day Federal Register notice. This would adversely affect FRA's ability to ensure that marking of emergency window exits and rescue access windows, emergency evacuation instructions, and other markings, signage, and information necessary for the safety of passengers and crewmembers in a passenger train emergency are properly displayed and maintained as required under the regulations.

To ensure FRA has the continued ability to require railroads to adhere to essential requirements for passenger train emergency systems, it is imperative FRA receive a 30-day extension from OMB for OMB control number 2130-0576.