

clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB’s clearance of this information collection.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: May 21, 2024.

Jazmyne Lewis,

Information Collection Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024–11585 Filed 5–24–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2024–0011]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, FRA seeks approval of the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below. Before submitting this ICR to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval, FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified in the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be submitted on *regulations.gov* to the docket, Docket No. FRA–2024–0011. All comments received will be

posted without change to the docket, including any personal information provided. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number (2130–0571) in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in a subsequent 30-day notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Arlette Mussington, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *arlette.mussington@dot.gov* or telephone: (571) 609–1285 or Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *joanne.swafford@dot.gov* or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60 days’ notice to the public to allow comment on information collection activities before seeking OMB approval of the activities. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. Specifically, FRA invites interested parties to comment on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA’s estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1).

FRA believes that soliciting public comment may reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information that

Federal regulations mandate. In summary, comments received will advance three objectives: (1) reduce reporting burdens; (2) organize information collection requirements in a “user-friendly” format to improve the use of such information; and (3) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Occupational Noise Exposure for Railroad Operating Employees.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0571.

Abstract: Title 49 CFR part 227 contains requirements for occupational noise exposure. FRA uses the collection of information to ensure that railroads covered by this rule establish and implement noise monitoring, hearing conservation, and audiometric testing programs to protect their employees against the harmful effects of excessive noise in the workplace.

Additionally, railroads must maintain testing and training records on noise and hearing conservation. Further, railroads must make exposure measurement records for specific locations available to regional or national labor representatives upon request.

In this 60-day notice, FRA has made minor adjustments to correct rounding from the previous submission, resulting in a decrease in burden of 6 hours. The estimated paperwork burden for this submission is 3,974 hours.

Type of Request: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Businesses (Railroads, railroads equipment manufacturers).

Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: 531 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

REPORTING BURDEN

CFR section	Respondent universe ¹	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Wage Rate ²	Total cost equivalent in U.S. dollars
		(A)	(B)	(C = A * B)	(E)	(D = C * E)
227.13—Waivers	531 railroads	0.30 petitions (1 petition over 3-year period.	1.00 hour	0.30 hours	\$85.93	\$25.78

¹ The total respondent universe is taken from the 2022 railroad classification data. The total of 531 represents all Class I, II and III (751) less the small

railroads such as tourist, steam, historic, and excursion (220).

² Throughout the tables in this document, the dollar equivalent cost is derived from the 2022

Surface Transportation Board Full Year Wage A & B data series using the appropriate employee group to calculate the average hourly rate that includes 75 percent overhead.

REPORTING BURDEN—Continued

CFR section	Respondent universe ¹	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Wage Rate ²	Total cost equivalent in U.S. dollars
		(A)	(B)	(C = A * B)	(E)	(D = C * E)
227.103(a)–(f)—Noise monitoring program—development and implementation.	531 railroads	5.00 programs	30.00 hours	150.00	123.41	18,511.50
—(g) Reporting of monitoring results—notification of employee of monitoring.	531 railroads	5.00 lists	0.50 hours	2.50	85.93	214.83
227.107(a)—Hearing Conservation Program (HCP)—development of programs.	531 railroads	3.00 HCPs	31.00 hours	93.00	123.41	11,477.13
—Revised hearing conservation programs (HCPs).	531 railroads	3.00 HCPs	1.75 hours	5.25	85.93	451.13
227.109(e)—Audiometric testing program—baseline audiograms—New and existing employees.	76,244 employees	6,862.00 records of tests.	30 seconds	56.95	85.93	4,894.71
—(f) Periodic audiograms includes retests.	76,244 employees	25,415.00 records of tests.	30 seconds	210.94	85.93	18,126.07
—(g)(1)–(2) Evaluation of audiograms.	76,244 employees	2,330 ratings + 93 records of retests.	6 minutes + 30 seconds.	233.77	85.93	20,087.86
—(g)(3) Review of problem audiograms.	8,000 employees	45.00 documents	10.00 minutes	7.52	85.93	646.19
—(h)(1) Follow-up procedures—notifications.	8,000 employees	93.00 notices	5.00 minutes	7.72	85.93	663.38
—(h)(2)(i)–(ii) Fitting/training of employees: hearing protectors.	240 employees	240.00 documented training sessions.	5.00 minutes	19.92	85.93	1,711.73
—(h)(2)(iii) Referrals for clinical/otological exam.	240 employees	20.00 referrals	1.00 hour	20.00	85.93	1,718.60
—(h)(2)(iv) Notification to employee of need for otological examination.	240 employees	20.00 notices	5.00 minutes	1.66	85.93	142.64
—(h)(3) New audiometric interpretation.	240 employees	20.00 notices	5.00 minutes	1.66	85.93	142.64
227.111—Audiometric test requirements.	1,000 mobile vans	1,000.00 recalibration test records.	30 seconds	8.30	85.93	713.22
227.117 (a)—Hearing protection attenuation—evaluation.	531 railroads	50.00 evaluations	0.50 hours	25.00	85.93	2,148.25
—(d) Reevaluations of adequacy of hearing protection attenuation when employee noise exposure increases.	531 railroads	10.00 re-evaluations ..	0.50 hours	5.00	85.93	429.65
227.119—Hearing Conservation Training Program—development.	531 railroads	3.00 training program modifications.	1.00 hour	3.00	85.93	257.79
—Employee HCP training	531 railroads	26,000.00 records of training.	2.00 minutes	866.58	85.93	74,465.22
—Periodic training	531 railroads	6,862.00 records of training.	2.00 minutes	228.71	85.93	19,653.05
227.121(a)(1)(i)–(ii)—Record-keeping—availability of records upon request.	531 railroads	30 requests + 30 responses.	10 minutes + 15 minutes.	12.60	85.93	1,082.72
—(a)(1)(iv) Availability of exposure measurement records to regional or national labor representatives upon request.	531 railroads	150 requests + 150 responses.	21 minutes + 45 minutes.	165.00	85.93	14,178.45
—(a)(2)–(3) Electronic records—maintenance and transfer of records.	531 railroads	10.00 records	24.00 minutes	4.00	85.93	343.72
—(c) Audiometric test records	531 railroads	26,000.00 records	2.00 minutes	866.58	85.93	74,465.22
—(d) Positions and person designated records.	531 railroads	54,000.00 records	45 seconds	675.00	85.93	58,002.75
229.121(a)—Locomotive cab noise—performance standards for locomotives—records and certification.	3 equipment manufacturers.	610 records + 90 certifications.	5 minutes + 40 minutes.	110.93	85.93	9,532.21
—(b)(3) Maintenance of locomotives—Excessive noise reports.	514 railroads	3,000 reports + 3,000 records.	1 minute + 1 minute ...	100.00	85.93	8,593.00
—(b)(4) Recordkeeping—written or electronic records.	514 railroads	3,750.00 records	1.00 minutes	62.63	85.93	5,381.80
—(b)(4)(iii) Internal auditable monitoring systems—records.	514 railroads	22 systems + 2 systems.	36 mins + 8.25 hours	29.70	85.93	2,552.12
Appendix H(IV)—Static noise test protocols—records for retest.	500 locomotives	2.00 retest records	5.00 minutes	0.17	85.93	14.61
Total ³	531 railroads	159,925 responses	N/A	3,974 hours	N/A	350,627

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 159,925.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 3,974 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$350,627.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2024–11536 Filed 5–24–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2024–0010]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, FRA seeks approval of the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below. Before submitting this ICR to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval, FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified in the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be submitted on *regulations.gov* to the docket, Docket No. FRA–2024–0010. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket, including any personal information provided. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number (2130–0596) in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in a subsequent 30-day notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Arlette Mussington, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *arlette.mussington@dot.gov* or telephone: (571) 609–1285 or Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *joanne.swafford@dot.gov* or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60 days’ notice to the public to allow comment on information collection activities before seeking OMB approval of the activities. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. Specifically, FRA invites interested parties to comment on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA’s estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1).

FRA believes that soliciting public comment may reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information that Federal statutes and regulations mandate. In summary, comments received will advance three objectives: (1) reduce reporting burdens; (2) organize information collection requirements in a “user-friendly” format to improve the use of such information; and (3) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3501.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Conductor Certification.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0596.

Abstract: FRA’s conductor certification regulation (49 CFR part 242) requires railroads to have a formal program for certifying any person as a

conductor. As part of that program, railroads are required to have a process for determining competency to serve as a conductor through training, testing, and qualifying prospective conductors and existing conductors before issuing each person certification or recertification. The regulation is intended to ensure that only those persons who meet minimum Federal safety standards serve as conductors.

FRA collects information to ensure that railroads and their employees fully comply with all the requirements of part 242, including a conductor certification/recertification program, fitness requirements, initial and periodic testing, and territorial qualifications.

In this 60-day notice, FRA made adjustments that decreased the previously approved burden hours from 49,761 hours to 46,858 hours. The decrease in burden is a result of the reduced amount of time per response for § 242.115(e) certification review for prior alcohol/drug conduct. The average time was reduced from 10 minutes to 5 minutes, providing a more accurate analysis of the time needed to complete the review.

Additionally, upon a detailed review of part 242, FRA made several adjustments to its estimated paperwork burdens in this ICR extension.¹ FRA determined that fewer employees were changing employers, therefore reducing the number of prior safety records being reviewed. FRA also found that the associated burdens related to substance abuse and medical conditions have decreased as fewer employees have medical conditions that require further evaluation or positive drug and alcohol tests. As a result of these decreased burdens, the number of certification denials due to medical conditions and substance abuse has also decreased.

Type of Request: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: 784 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

¹ The public can view all estimate adjustments to FRA’s active ICRs in the Supporting Statements published at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/>. The Supporting Statement for this ICR will be available after the 30-day **Federal Register** notice is published in *reginfo.gov*.

³ Totals may not add up due to rounding.