

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration****[Docket No. MARAD–2024–0158]****Request for Comments on the Renewal of a Previously Approved Collection: Application for Construction Reserve Fund and Annual Statements (CRF)****AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments on our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed collection OMB 2133–0032 (Application for Construction Reserve Fund (CRF) and Annual Statements) is used to evaluate an applicant's eligibility for CRF program benefits. There was a reduction in the public burden since the last renewal. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David M. Gilmore, Director, 202–366–5737, Office of Marine Financing, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, Email: David.gilmore@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Construction Reserve Fund Program (CRF).

OMB Control Number: 2133–0032.

Type of Request: Extension of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: The Construction Reserve Fund Program (CRF), authorized by 46 U.S.C. chapter 533, is a financial assistance program which provides tax deferral benefits to U.S.-flag operators. Eligible parties can defer the gain attributable to the sale or loss of a vessel, provided the proceeds are used to expand or modernize the U.S. merchant fleet. The primary purpose of the CRF is to promote the construction, reconstruction, reconditioning, or acquisition of merchant vessels which are necessary for national defense and to the development of U.S. commerce.

Respondents: Citizens who own or operate vessels in the U.S. foreign or domestic commerce who desire tax benefits under the CRF must respond.

Affected Public: Owners or operators of vessels in the domestic or foreign commerce.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Number of Responses: 10.

Estimated Hours per Response: 9.

Annual Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 90.

Frequency of Response: Once Annually.

A 60-day **Federal Register** Notice soliciting comments on this information collection was published on October 1, 2024 (89 FR 80011) in the **Federal Register** indicating comments should be submitted by December 2, 2024. No comments were received.

(Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.49.)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator,
T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,
Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024–29537 Filed 12–13–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Office of the Secretary****[Docket No.: DOT–OST–2024–0129]****Notice of Proposed Waiver of Buy America Requirements for the Pacific Island Territories and the Freely Associated States****ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking comments on a proposed general applicability public interest waiver of the requirements of section 70914(a) of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) and related domestic preference statutes administered by DOT and its Operating Administrations (OAs) for Federal financial assistance awarded for infrastructure projects located in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and American Samoa, collectively referred to as the Pacific Island territories. The proposed waiver would also apply to discretionary grant assistance provided by DOT to the Freely Associated States (the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia) in the Pacific that is subject to a domestic preference statute (which does not include BABA, as that statute only applies to the United States

and its territories). The waiver will remain in effect for five years after the effective date of the final waiver.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 31, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your comments to the U.S. Government electronic docket site at <https://www.regulations.gov>, Docket: DOT–OST–2024–0129.

Note: All submissions received, including any personal information therein, will be posted without change or alteration to <https://www.regulations.gov>. For more information, you may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement published in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice, please contact Elizabeth Fox, DOT Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, at elizabeth.fox@dot.gov or at 202–366–4540. For legal questions, please contact Jennifer Kirby-McLemore, DOT Office of the General Counsel, 405–446–6883, or via email at jennifer.mclemore@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Buy America preferences set forth in section 70914(a) of BABA¹ require that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for infrastructure projects in the United States under Federal financial assistance awards be produced in the United States.

Under section 70914(b) and in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)'s Guidance Memorandum M–24–02, Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure, DOT may waive the application of BABA requirements in any case in which it finds that: (i) applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; (ii) types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or (iii) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the U.S. will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

BABA also provides that the preferences under section 70914 apply

¹ The Build America, Buy America Act was included as title XI, subtitle A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Pub. L. 117–58).