

IMPORT ASSESSMENT TABLE—
Continued
[Raw Cotton Fiber]

HTS No.	Conventional Factors	Cents/kg.
6212200020	0.3014	0.3572
6212900030	0.1929	0.2286
6213201000	1.1809	1.3994
6213202000	1.0628	1.2594
6213901000	0.4724	0.5598
6214900010	0.9043	1.0716
6216000800	0.2351	0.2786
6216001720	0.6752	0.8001
6216003800	1.2058	1.4289
6216004100	1.2058	1.4289
6217109510	1.0182	1.2066
6217109530	0.2546	0.3017
6301300010	0.8766	1.0388
6301300020	0.8766	1.0388
6302100010	1.1689	1.3851
6302215010	0.8182	0.9696
6302215020	0.8182	0.9696
6302217010	1.1689	1.3851
6302217020	1.1689	1.3851
6302217050	1.1689	1.3851
6302219010	0.8182	0.9696
6302219020	0.8182	0.9696
6302219050	0.8182	0.9696
6302222010	0.4091	0.4848
6302222020	0.4091	0.4848
6302313010	0.8182	0.9696
6302313050	1.1689	1.3851
6302315050	0.8182	0.9696
6302317010	1.1689	1.3851
6302317020	1.1689	1.3851
6302317040	1.1689	1.3851
6302317050	1.1689	1.3851
6302319010	0.8182	0.9696
6302319040	0.8182	0.9696
6302319050	0.8182	0.9696
6302322020	0.4091	0.4848
6302322040	0.4091	0.4848
6302402010	0.9935	1.1773
6302511000	0.5844	0.6925
6302512000	0.8766	1.0388
6302513000	0.5844	0.6925
6302514000	0.8182	0.9696
6302600010	1.1689	1.3851
6302600020	1.052	1.2466
6302600030	1.052	1.2466
6302910005	1.052	1.2466
6302910015	1.1689	1.3851
6302910025	1.052	1.2466
6302910035	1.052	1.2466
6302910045	1.052	1.2466
6302910050	1.052	1.2466
6302910060	1.052	1.2466
6303110000	0.9448	1.1196
6303910000	0.6429	0.7618
6304111000	1.0629	1.2595
6304190500	1.052	1.2466
6304191000	1.1689	1.3851
6304191500	0.4091	0.4848
6304192000	0.4091	0.4848
6304910020	0.9351	1.1081
6304920000	0.9351	1.1081
6505901540	1.181	1.3995
6505902060	0.9935	1.1773
6505902545	0.5844	0.6925

Dated: March 24, 1998.

Enrique E. Figueroa,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 98-8178 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 21

RIN 2900-AI68

Reservists Education: Monthly Verification of Enrollment and Other Reports

AGENCIES: Department of Defense, Department of Transportation (Coast Guard), and Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to amend the educational assistance and educational benefit regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It proposes to expand the current requirement that some reservists receiving educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) verify their pursuit of a program of education monthly to include those reservists who are pursuing a standard college degree. At the same time the document proposes reducing the number of reports VA receives from educational institutions. It appears that this would be a cost-effective way to reduce overpayments.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver written comments to Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AI68." All written comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

Comments on the collection of information contained in this proposal should be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of

Veterans Affairs, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503, with copies mailed or hand delivered to the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AI68." All written comments to VA will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William G. Susling, Jr., Education Advisor, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration (202) 273-7187.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA is required by statute (38 U.S.C. 3680(g)) to withhold payments of educational assistance until VA receives proof of an individual's pursuit of a program of education. The statute goes on to state that VA may accept the individual's monthly certification of enrollment in and satisfactory pursuit of a program of education as satisfactory proof. Currently, regulations governing the MGIB-SR require such a monthly certification from a reservist pursuing a course not leading to a standard college degree, but this is not required from a reservist who is pursuing a standard college degree.

VA analyzes its information collection burdens periodically to see if they are cost-effective. In 1997 an analysis was done of the monthly certification process. The analysis included an examination of the verification process in other VA education programs such as the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty (MGIB) where students pursuing a standard college degree are required to verify their continued pursuit monthly.

The analysis found that if monthly verifications were eliminated entirely, the current establishment of debt in the education programs VA administers would increase from \$5.6 million to \$14 million annually. While the cost of processing verifications would be eliminated, the cost of collecting debts would increase. Conversely, the analysis projected that if monthly verifications were required in all the education programs VA administers, the establishment of debt in those programs would decrease from \$5.6 million to \$2.4 million annually, while the costs of processing those verifications would increase by \$0.3 million annually. Accordingly, it would appear that overpayments of educational assistance

under MGIB-SR could be effectively reduced by expanding the monthly verification process to include reservists enrolled in courses leading to a standard college degree. This proposed rule would require reservists pursuing a standard college degree to verify pursuit of a program of education each month.

Current regulations provide that if a reservist reduces his or her rate of training, and has mitigating circumstances for such a reduction, the effective date for the corresponding reduction in the monthly rate of the reservist's educational assistance will be the end of the month in which the reduction in the rate of training took place. However, VA is required by statute to make the reduction in the monthly rate of educational assistance on the effective date of the reduction in the rate of training, if the reduction is pursuant to a report received from the reservist as part of his or her monthly verification of training. Thus, it appears that adopting a monthly verification requirement would require a change in the regulation governing the effective dates of reductions in educational assistance. Such a change is included in this proposal.

Current regulations provide that when a reservist interrupts or terminates training or when he or she changes the number of hours of credit or attendance, the educational institution must report this fact to VA. The purpose of this report is to help determine the reservist's training time. VA considers a reservist to be a half-time, three-quarter-time, full-time, etc., student on the basis of the number of his or her credit hours or clock hours of attendance. Payments, in turn, are based on the training time. For example, a full-time student receives twice the monthly educational assistance that a half-time student does. VA needs to know changes in the number of the reservist's hours of credit or attendance so that his or her payments may accurately reflect the training time.

However, occasionally a reservist will enroll in more hours than the minimum needed to be considered a full-time student. The reservist may withdraw from a course or add a course and still be considered a full-time student. It appears that in those instances VA does not need a report of the change in hours, because payment to the student will not be affected. Accordingly, it is proposed that in these instances the educational institution need not report the changes provided the reservist is enrolled in a standard term.

Similarly, VA is proposing that a reservist who is a full-time student and who changes his or her enrollment but

remains a full-time student need not report the change on the monthly verification of pursuit.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that the proposed 38 CFR 21.7654 and 21.7656(a) and the proposed 38 CFR 21.7656(b) would constitute collections of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). Accordingly, under section 3507(d) of the Act VA has submitted a copy of this rulemaking action to OMB for its review.

Title: Monthly Verification of Pursuit of Training under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve.

Summary of collection of information: The collection of information in the proposed revisions to §§ 21.7654 and 21.7656(a) in this rulemaking proceeding implements a statutory provision that permits, but does not require, VA to require reports showing a reservist's satisfactory pursuit of a program of education before releasing a payment of educational assistance. The statute specifically allows a monthly certification received from the reservist to satisfy this requirement.

Description of need for information and proposed use of information: The information required in §§ 21.7654 and 21.7656(a) is needed to help VA determine whether educational assistance should continue to be paid to a reservist and to verify the correct monthly rate of educational assistance payable to a reservist. The monthly rate is based on the reservist's training time which in turn is based on the number of credit hours in which the reservist is enrolled.

Description of likely respondents: The respondents will be reservists eligible to receive educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve.

Estimated number of respondents: 82,400.

Estimated frequency of responses: Monthly while the reservist continues to pursue a program of education.

Estimated total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden: 48,067 hours of reporting burden. VA estimates that there would be no recordkeeping burden.

Estimated average burden per respondent: .58 hour.

Title: Report of Change in Enrollment for Reservists Training under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve.

Summary of collection of information: The collection of information in the proposed revisions to § 21.7656(b) in this rulemaking proceeding implements a statutory provision that requires an

educational institution to report without delay changes, including interruptions and terminations, in a reservist's enrollment. This proposed rule would reduce the information collection burden currently placed on educational institutions by eliminating some reports that the current regulation requires.

Description of need for information and proposed use of information: The information required in § 21.7656(b) is needed to help VA determine the monthly rate of educational assistance payable to a reservist. The monthly rate is based on the student's training time which in turn is based on the number of credit hours in which the reservist is enrolled.

Description of likely respondents: Educational institutions make this report.

Estimated number of respondents: 7,481.

Estimated frequency of responses: Occasionally, when a reservist changes her or his pursuit of a program of education, unless the reservist was a full-time student both before and after the change.

Estimated total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden: 13,570 hours of reporting burden. VA does not believe that there will be additional recordkeeping burden.

Estimated average burden per respondent: 1.81 hours.

The Department considers comments by the public on proposed collections of information in—

- Evaluating whether the proposed collection(s) of information are necessary for the proposed performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluating the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed collections of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Minimizing the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information contained in this proposed rule between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

The Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hereby certify that this proposed rule, if adopted, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612. This proposed rule may affect some educational institutions that are small entities. However, educational institutions are paid a reporting fee for making required reports to VA. Furthermore, VA does not believe that a burden of less than two hours annually would result in a significant economic impact. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this proposed rule, therefore, is exempt from both the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

There is no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for the program affected by this proposed rule.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 21

Administrative practice and procedure, Armed forces, Civil rights, Claims, Colleges and universities, Conflict of interests, Defense Department, Education, Employment, Grant programs-education, Grant programs-veterans, Health programs, Loan programs-education, Loan programs-veterans, Manpower training programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Schools, Travel and transportation expenses, Veterans, Vocational education, Vocational rehabilitation.

Approved: March 17, 1998.

Togo D. West, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

Approved: August 13, 1997.

Al H. Bemis,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (Manpower and Personnel).

Approved: November 4, 1997.

G.F. Woolever,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources.

For the reasons set out above, 38 CFR part 21, subpart L, is amended as set forth below.

PART 21—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Subpart L—Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve

1. The authority citation for part 21, subpart L, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. ch. 1606; 38 U.S.C. 501(a), ch. 36, unless otherwise noted.

2. In § 21.7635, paragraph (c)(1) is revised to read as follows:

§ 21.7635 Discontinuance dates.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) If the reduction in the rate of training occurs other than on the first date of the term, VA will reduce the reservist's educational assistance effective on the date the reduction occurred when:

* * * * *

3. In § 21.7654, paragraph (b) is redesignated as paragraph (c); paragraph (a) is revised; and introductory text and a new paragraph (b) are added to read as follows:

§ 21.7654 Pursuit and absences.

Except as provided in this section, a reservist must submit a verification to VA each month of his or her enrollment during the period for which the reservist is to be paid. This verification shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary.

(a) *Exceptions to the monthly verification requirement.* A reservist does not have to submit a monthly verification as described in the introductory text of this section when the reservist—

(1) Is enrolled in a correspondence course; or

(2) Has received an advance payment for the training completed during a month.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3680(a), 3680(g))

(b) *Items to be reported on all monthly verifications.* (1) The monthly verification for all reservists will include a report on the following items when applicable:

(i) Continued enrollment in and actual pursuit of the course;

(ii) The date of interruption or termination of training;

(iii) Except as provided in § 21.7656(a), changes in the number of credit hours or in the number of clock hours of attendance;

(iv) Nonpunitive grades; and

(v) Any other changes or modifications in the course as certified at enrollment.

(2) The verification of enrollment must:

(i) Contain the information required for release of payment;

(ii) If required or permitted by the Secretary to be submitted on paper, be signed by the reservist on or after the final date of the reporting period, or if permitted by the Secretary to be submitted by telephone in a manner designated by the Secretary, be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Secretary on or after the final date of the reporting period; and

(iii) If submitted on paper, clearly show the date on which it was signed.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3680(g))

* * * * *

4. In § 21.7656, the introductory text is removed, paragraphs (a), (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (b) are redesignated as paragraphs (b), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), and (c), respectively; the section heading, newly redesignated paragraphs (b), (b)(3) and the authority citation at the end of paragraph (b) are revised; and new paragraphs (a), (b)(1), and (b)(2) are added, to read as follows:

§ 21.7656 Other required reports.

(a) *Reports from reservists.* (1) A reservist enrolled full time in a program of education for a standard term, quarter, or semester must report without delay to VA:

(i) A change in his or her credit hours or clock hours of attendance if that change would result in less than full-time enrollment;

(ii) Any change in his or her pursuit that would result in less than full-time enrollment; and

(iii) Any interruption or termination of his or her attendance.

(2) A reservist not described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section must report without delay to VA:

(i) Any change in his or her credit hours or clock hours of attendance;

(ii) Any change in his or her pursuit; and

(iii) Any interruption or termination of his or her attendance.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3684)

(b) *Interruptions, terminations, or changes in hours of credit or attendance.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, an educational institution must report without delay to VA each time a reservist:

(i) Interrupts or terminates his or her training for any reason; or

(ii) Changes his or her credit hours or clock hours of attendance.

(2) An educational institution does not need to report a change in a reservist's hours of credit or attendance when:

(i) The reservist is enrolled full time in a program of education for a standard term, quarter, or semester before the change; and

(ii) The reservist continues to be enrolled full time after the change.

(3) If the change in status or change in number of credit hours or clock hours of attendance occurs on a day other than one indicated by paragraph (b)(4) or (b)(5) of this section, the educational

institution will initiate a report of the change in time for VA to receive it within 30 days of the date on which the change occurs.

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(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3684)

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[FR Doc. 98-8332 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[OR-69-7284b; FRL-5984-8]

Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans: Oregon

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to approve a revision to the Oregon State Implementation Plan. This revision establishes and requires a source specific reasonable available control technology (RACT) volatile organic compound (VOC) emission standard for DURA Industries, at 4466 NW Yeon, Portland, Oregon 97210. This action is authorized under Part D of the Clean Air Act (Act).

In the Final Rules Section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision amendment and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If the EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by April 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Montel Livingston, Environmental Protection Specialist (OAQ-107), Office of Air Quality, at the EPA Regional Office listed below. Copies of the documents relevant to this proposed rule are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. The

interested persons wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the visiting day.

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, Office of Air Quality, 1200 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101 and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) 811 SW Sixth Ave, Portland, Oregon 97204-1390.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tracy Oliver, Office of Air Quality (OAQ-107), EPA, 1200 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 553-1388.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the Direct Final action which is located in the Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 6, 1998.

Chuck Findley,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 98-8058 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 52 and 81

[CA 041-0067a; FRL-5984-1]

Proposed Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans and Redesignation of California's Ten Federal Carbon Monoxide Planning Areas to Attainment Urbanized Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve maintenance plans and redesignation requests submitted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to redesignate ten of California's federal carbon monoxide planning areas from nonattainment to attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for carbon monoxide (CO). They are: Bakersfield Metropolitan Area, Fresno Urbanized Area, Lake Tahoe South Shore Area, Sacramento Area, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Area, Chico Urbanized Area, Lake Tahoe North Shore Area, Modesto Urbanized Area, San Diego Area, and Stockton Urbanized Area. Under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990 (CAA), designations can be revised if sufficient data is available to warrant such revisions. In this action, EPA is proposing California's maintenance plans and redesignation requests because they meet the requirements set forth in the CAA. In addition, EPA is proposing a related State Implementation Plan (SIP) submission

by CARB, an Air Quality Attainment Plan for CO for Fresno.

In the Final Rules Section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision amendment and anticipates no relevant adverse comments. A detailed rationale for this approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no relevant adverse comments are received in response to this action, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. However, if EPA receives relevant adverse comments, then EPA will publish a document that withdraws only those portions of the action on which EPA received the adverse comments, informing the public that those portions of the action are withdrawn. EPA will then address those comments in a final action based upon this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on the proposed rule. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by April 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to: Larry A. Biland, Air Planning Office (AIR-2), Air Division, U.S. EPA, Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California, 94105-3901. Telephone: (415) 744-1227.

Copies of the SIP materials and EPA's technical support document are available for public inspection at EPA's Region 9 office during normal business hours. Copies of the submitted rule revisions are also available for inspection at the following locations:

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Air Division, Air Planning Office (AIR-2), 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket (6102), 401 "M" Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460
California Air Resources Board, 2020 L Street, Sacramento, California 92123-1095
Kern County APCD, 2700 M Street, Suite #290, Bakersfield, CA 93301
San Joaquin Valley Unified APCD, 1999 Tuolumne Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721
Placer County, DeWitt Center 11464 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603
Sacramento Metropolitan APCD, 8411 Jackson Road, Sacramento, CA 95826
Bay Area Air, Quality Management District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
Butte County, 2525 Dominic Drive, Suite J, Chico, CA 95928-7184