

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before June 8, 1998.

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize 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 submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Leslie Thompson, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room S-4522, Washington, D.C. 20210, (202) 219-5215, ext. 131. (this is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Secretary of Labor has a legal responsibility under the Social Security Act (SSA) Title III, Section 303(a)(1), for reimbursing to State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) the necessary cost of proper and efficient administration of State UI laws. The BTQ program collects information and analyses data to do this. The BTQ measures have been implemented which look at timeliness and quality of States' performance, various administrative actions and administrative decisions concerning UI benefit operations.

II. Current Actions

Continued collection of data under the BTQ system will provide for a comprehensive evaluation of the overall UI program. The BTQ program has been and will continue to be one of the primary means used by UI Regional and National Office staff to assess performance levels of individual States and as a basis for oversight to discharge the Secretary of Labor's responsibility for determining proper and efficient administration. The SESAs also use the

BTQ measures for their internal program assessment.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Employment and Training Administration.

Title: Benefits, Timeliness and Quality Review.

OMB Number: 1205-0359.

Affected Public: State Government.

Total Respondents: 53.

Frequency: Monthly and Quarterly.

Total Responses: 54,908.

Average Time per Response: 726 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 38,486 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): 0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): 0.

Dated: March 31, 1998.

Grace A. Kilbane,

Director, Unemployment Insurance Service.

[FR Doc. 98-9055 Filed 4-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

ETA-9000 Report on Internal Fraud Activities; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension collection of the ETA-9000 Report on Internal Fraud Activities. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before June 8, 1998. The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize 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 submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Harry B. Minor, Unemployment Insurance Service, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S4522, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone number (202) 219-5211, ext. 108 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The ETA-9000 is the only data source available on instances of internal fraud activities within the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program and on the results of safeguards that have been implemented to deter and detect instances of internal fraud. The report categorizes the major areas susceptible to internal (employee) fraud and provides actual and "estimated" (predictability or cost avoidance measures) workload. The information from this report has been used and will be used to review Internal Security (IS) operations and obtain information on composite shifting patterns of nationwide activity, and effectiveness in the area of internal fraud identification and prevention. Employment and Training Administration has used this report to assess the overall adequacy of internal security procedures in State Employment Security Agency (SESA) UI program administration.

II. Current Actions

Continued collection of the ETA-9000 data will provide for a comprehensive evaluation of the UI IS program. The data is collected annually, and an analysis of the data received is formulated into a report summarizing the internal fraud cases uncovered by the 53 SESAs.

Type of Review: Extension.
Agency: Employment and Training Administration.

Title: Report on Internal Fraud Activities.

OMB Number: 1205-0187.

Agency Number: ETA 9000.

Affected Public: State and Local Governments.

Total Respondents: 53.

Frequency: Annually.

Total Responses: 53.

Average Time per Response: 3 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 159 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): 0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): 0.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 31, 1998.

Grace A. Kilbane,

Director, Unemployment Insurance Service.

[FR Doc. 98-9056 Filed 4-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the date and location of the next meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH), established under section 7(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 656) to advise the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on matters relating to the administration of the Act. NACOSH will hold a meeting on May 8, 1998, in Room N3437 A-D of the Department of Labor Building located at 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 9:00 a.m. lasting until approximately 4:30 p.m.

Agenda items will include: a brief overview of current activities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a presentation on occupational injury and illness statistics, an update on OSHA's ergonomic activity, a report on the 11(c) task force, a discussion on the co-ordination of federal agencies to address

the problem of latex allergies, an update on the OSHA Performance Plan and possible reports from NACOSH's workgroups.

Written data, views or comments for consideration by the committee may be submitted, preferably with 20 copies, to Frank Frodyma at the address provided below. Any such submissions received prior to the meeting will be provided to the members of the Committee and will be included in the record of the meeting. Because of the need to cover a wide variety of subjects in a short period of time, there is usually insufficient time on the agenda for members of the public to address the committee orally. However, any such request will be considered by the Chair who will determine whether or not time permits. Any request to make a presentation should state the amount of time desired, the capacity in which the person would appear, and a brief outline of the content of the presentation.

Individuals with disabilities who need special accommodations should contact Theresa Berry (phone: 202-219-8615, extension 106; fax: 202-219-5986) one week before the meeting.

An official record of the meeting will be available for public inspection in the OSHA Technical Data Center (TDC) located in Room N2625 of the Department of Labor Building (202-219-7500). For additional information contact: Frank Frodyma, Acting Director of Policy, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); Room N-3641, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC., 20210 (phone 202-219-8021, extension 102; fax: 202-219-4384; e-mail frank.frodyma@osha.no.osha.gov).

Signed at Washington, DC., this 31st day of March 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 98-9057 Filed 4-6-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Prohibited Transaction Exemption 98-13; Exemption Application No. D-10304, et al.]

Grant of Individual Exemptions; MBNA America Bank, National Association

AGENCY: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Grant of individual exemptions.

SUMMARY: This document contains exemptions issued by the Department of Labor (the Department) from certain of the prohibited transaction restrictions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act) and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code).

Notices were published in the **Federal Register** of the pendency before the Department of proposals to grant such exemptions. The notices set forth a summary of facts and representations contained in each application for exemption and referred interested persons to the respective applications for a complete statement of the facts and representations. The applications have been available for public inspection at the Department in Washington, D.C. The notices also invited interested persons to submit comments on the requested exemptions to the Department. In addition the notices stated that any interested person might submit a written request that a public hearing be held (where appropriate). The applicants have represented that they have complied with the requirements of the notification to interested persons. No public comments and no requests for a hearing, unless otherwise stated, were received by the Department.

The notices of proposed exemption were issued and the exemptions are being granted solely by the Department because, effective December 31, 1978, section 102 of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1978 (43 FR 47713, October 17, 1978) transferred the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue exemptions of the type proposed to the Secretary of Labor.

Statutory Findings

In accordance with section 408(a) of the Act and/or section 4975(c)(2) of the Code and the procedures set forth in 29 CFR Part 2570, Subpart B (55 FR 32836, 32847, August 10, 1990) and based upon the entire record, the Department makes the following findings:

- (a) The exemptions are administratively feasible;
- (b) They are in the interests of the plans and their participants and beneficiaries; and
- (c) They are protective of the rights of the participants and beneficiaries of the plans.

MBNA America Bank, National Association (MBNA)

Located in Wilmington, Delaware
 [Prohibited Transaction Exemption No. 98-13; Application No. D-10304]