

submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for reclearance of an information collection on Standard Form 87 and 87A, Fingerprint Charts, and solicits comments on them.

Standard Form 87 and 87A Fingerprint Charts are completed by applicants for positions throughout the Federal Government. SF 87 is used by OPM, and SF 87A is used by agencies having a special agreement with OPM and the FBI. The information is used to conduct the checks of the FBI fingerprint files that are required by Executive Order 10450, Security Requirements for Government Employment, issued April 27, 1953, or required or authorized under other authorities.

It is estimated that 250,000 individuals will respond annually for a total burden of 20,833 hours. To obtain copies of this proposal please contact James M. Farron at (202) 418-3208 or E-mail to jmfarron@opm.gov.

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before March 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to:

Richard A. Ferris, Office of Personnel Management, Investigations Service, 1900 E. Street NW., Room 5416, Washington, DC 20415

and
Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Summary: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection

of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and Purpose of Information Collection

Representative Payee Monitoring; OMB 3220-0151.

Under Section 12 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), the RRB may pay annuity benefits to a representative payee when an employee, spouse or survivor annuitant is incompetent or a minor. The RRB is responsible for determining if direct payment to an annuitant or a representative payee would best serve the annuitant's best interest. The accountability requirements authorizing the RRB to conduct periodic monitoring of representative payees, including a written accounting of benefit payments received, are prescribed in 20 CFR 266.7.

The RRB utilizes the following forms to conduct its representative payee monitoring program.

Form G-99a, Representative Payee Report, is used to obtain information needed to determine whether the benefit payments certified to the representative payee have been used for the annuitant's current maintenance and personal needs and whether the representative payee continues to be concerned with the annuitant's welfare. The RRB also includes RRB Form G-99a (Enc), Representative Payee Duties, which includes the Paperwork Reduction Act notice and a list of representative payee duties with each RRB Form G-99a released. RRB Form G-99c, Representative Payee Evaluation Report, is used to obtain more detailed information from a representative payee who fails to complete and return Form G-99a, or in situations when the returned Form G-99a indicates the possible misuse of funds by the representative payee. Form G-99c contains specific questions concerning the representative payee's performance and is used by the RRB to determine whether or not the representative payee should continue in that capacity. Completion of the forms in this collection is required to retain benefits.

The RRB proposes minor editorial changes to Form G-99a (enc) and to Form G-99c to incorporate language required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The addition of the annuitant's social security number is being proposed to Form G-99a. The completion time for Form G-99a is

estimated at 18 minutes per response. The completion time for Form G-99c is estimated at between 24 and 31 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 6,000 Form G-99a's and 535 G-99c's are completed annually.

Additional Information or Comments: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-4397 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Summary: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and Purpose of Information Collection

Appeal Under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act; OMB 3220-0007.

Under Section 7(b)(3) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), and section 5(c) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) any person aggrieved by a decision on his or her application for an annuity or benefit under that Act has the right to appeal to the RRB. This right is prescribed in 20

CFR 260 and 20 CFR 320. The notification letter sent to the individual at the time of the original action on the application informs the applicant of such right. When an individual protests a decision, the concerned bureau reviews the entire file and any additional evidence submitted and sends the applicant a letter explaining the basis of the determination. The applicant is then notified that if he or she wishes to protest further, they can appeal to the RRB's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals. The procedure pertaining to the filing of such an appeal is prescribed in 20 CFR 260.5 and 260.9 and 20 CFR 320.12 and 320.38.

The form prescribed by the RRB for filing an appeal under the RRA or RUIA is form HA-1, *Appeal Under the Railroad Retirement Act or Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act*. The form asks the applicant to furnish the basis for the appeal and what additional evidence, if any, is to be submitted. Completion is voluntary, however if the information is not provided the RRB cannot process the appeal.

The RRB proposes to add an item to Form HA-1 which requests the name, address and phone number of the applicant's representative. Minor editorial changes which include the addition of language required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 are also proposed. The completion time for the HA-1 is estimated at 20 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 1,200 Form HA-1's are completed annually.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312)751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-4421 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-39660; File No. SR-BSE-97-08]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Listing and Trading Standards for Portfolio Depositary Receipts

February 12, 1998.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on December 9, 1997,³ the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. ("BSE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons. The Commission is also granting accelerated approval of the proposed rule change.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to adopt new listing standards and trading rules for Portfolio Depositary Receipts ("PDRs"). The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, BSE, and at the Commission.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below. The self-regulatory organization has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Listing Requirements for PDRs. The Exchange proposes to adopt new listing and delisting requirements to accommodate the trading of PDRs, *i.e.*, securities that are interests in a unit investment trust ("Trust") holding a portfolio of securities linked to an index. Each Trust will provide investors with an instrument that (1) closely tracks the underlying portfolio of securities, (2) trades like a share of common stock, and (3) pays holders of the instrument periodic dividends proportionate to those paid with respect to the underlying portfolio of securities, less certain expenses (as described in the Trust prospectus).

Under the proposal, the Exchange may list and trade, or trade pursuant to unlisted trading privileges ("UTP"), PDRs based on one or more stock indices or securities portfolios. PDRs based on each particular stock index or portfolio will be designated as a separate series and identified by a unique symbol. The stocks that are included in an index or portfolio on which PDRs are based will be selected by the Exchange, or by another person having a proprietary interest in and authorized use of such index or portfolio, and may be revised as deemed necessary or appropriate to maintain the quality and character of the index or portfolio.

In connection with an initial listing, the Exchange proposes that, for each Trust of PDRs, the Exchange will establish a minimum number of PDRs required to be outstanding at the time of commencement of Exchange trading, and such minimum number will be filed with the Commission in connection with any required submission under Rule 19b-4 for each Trust. If the Exchange trades a particular PDR pursuant to unlisted trading privileges, the Exchange will follow the listing exchange's determination of the appropriate minimum number.

Because the Trust operates on an open-end type basis, and because the number of PDR holders is subject to substantial fluctuations depending on market conditions, the Exchange believes it would be inappropriate and burdensome on PDR holders to consider suspending trading in or delisting a series of PDRs, with the consequent termination of the Trust, unless the number of holders remains severely depressed during an extended time period. Therefore, twelve months after

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ The Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change on December 11, 1997, the substance of which is incorporated into the notice. See letter from Karen A. Aluisse, Vice President, BSE, to Michael Walinskas, Senior Special Counsel, Market Regulation Commission, dated December 9, 1997 ("Amendment No. 1").