

Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; and to the Office of Management and Budget, O.I.R.A., Paperwork Reduction Project 0608-0016, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention PRA Desk Officer for BEA).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Chief Counsel for Regulation, Department of Commerce, has certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, under the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), that this proposed rulemaking, if adopted, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. While the survey does not collect data on total sales or other measures of the overall size of businesses that respond to the survey, historically the respondent universe has been comprised mainly of major U.S. corporations. With the proposed increase in the exemption level for the survey from \$1 million to \$2 million in covered receipts or payments, even fewer small businesses can be expected to be subject to reporting than in the past. Of those smaller businesses that must report, most will tend to have specialized operations and activities and thus will be likely to report only one type of insurance transaction, often limited to transactions with a single partner country; therefore, the burden on them can be expected to be small.

List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 801

Balance of payments, Economic statistics, Foreign trade, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: June 4, 2001.

J. Steven Landefeld,

Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, BEA proposes to amend 15 CFR Part 801, as follows:

PART 801—SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES BETWEEN U.S. AND FOREIGN PERSONS

1. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 801 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301, 15 U.S.C. 4908, 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108, and E.O. 11961 (3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 860 as amended by E.O. 12013 (3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 147), E.O. 12318 (3 CFR, 1981 Comp., p. 173), and E.O. 12518 (3 CFR, 1985 Comp., p. 348).

2. Section 801.9 is amended by revising paragraph (b)(4)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 801.9 Reports required.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(4) * * *

(ii) Exemption. A U.S. person otherwise required to report is exempt if, with respect to transactions with foreign persons, each of the following six items were \$2 million or less in the reporting period: Reinsurance premiums received, reinsurance premiums paid, reinsurance losses paid, reinsurance losses recovered, primary insurance premiums received, and primary insurance losses paid. If any one of these items is greater than \$2 million in the reporting period, a report must be filed.

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[FR Doc. 01-22190 Filed 9-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-06-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

20 CFR Part 200

RIN 3220-AB48

Assessment or Waiver of Interest, Penalties, and Administrative Costs With Respect to Collection of Certain Debts

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board (Board) hereby proposes to amend its regulations to conform those regulations to the practice of the agency to waive interest, penalties, and administrative costs where a debt is being recovered by setoff from current annuities and where the debt was not caused by fraud. This amendment will conform the regulation to current agency practice.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 5, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address any comments concerning this proposed rule to the secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael C. Litt, (312) 751-4929, TDD (312) 751-4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 200.7 of the Board's regulations provides for the assessment and waiver of interest, penalties, and administrative costs with respect to the collection of debts owed the Board. The Board proposes to amend its regulations so that the assessment of interest, penalties and administrative costs will be automatically waived in any case where the debt is being recovered by full or partial withholding of current annuities payable under the Railroad Retirement

Act and where fraud on the part of the debtor is not involved. This amendment will conform the Board's regulations to Board policy regarding recovery of debts due to the Board. The Social Security Administration also follows this same practice.

The Board, with the concurrence of the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that this is not a significant regulatory action for purposes of Executive Order 12866. Therefore, no regulatory impact analysis is required. There are no information collections associated with this rule.

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 200

Railroad retirement.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Railroad Retirement Board proposes to amend 20 CFR part 200 as follows:

PART 200—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. The authority citation for part 200 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 45 U.S.C. 231f(b)(5) and 45 U.S.C. 362; § 200.4 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552; § 200.5 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552a; § 200.6 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552b; and § 200.7 also issued under 31 U.S.C. 3717.

2. Amend § 200.7 by adding a new paragraph (i) to read as follows:

§ 200.7 Assessment or waiver of interest, penalties, and administrative costs with respect to collection of certain debts.

* * * * *

(i) The Board shall waive the collection of interest, penalties, and administrative costs in any case where the debt to be recovered is being recovered by full or partial withholding of a current annuity payable under the Railroad Retirement Act and the debt was not incurred through fraud.

Dated: August 27, 2001.

By Authority of the Board.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 01-22272 Filed 9-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

20 CFR Part 200

RIN 3220-AB35

Designation of Central and Field Organization

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board (Board) proposes to amend its

regulations to reflect its current agency structure due to recent reorganizations.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 5, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address any comments concerning the proposed rule to the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marguerite P. Dadabo, Assistant General Counsel, (312)751-4945, TDD (312)751-4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Part 200 of the Board's regulations deals with general administration of the Board. The Board proposes to amend § 200.1 dealing with the designation of central and field offices to reflect current agency structure due to recent reorganizations.

The Board, with the concurrence of the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that this is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866. Therefore, no regulatory impact analysis is required. There are no information collections associated with this rule.

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 200

Organization and functions (Government agencies), Railroad retirement.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Railroad Retirement Board proposes to amend 20 CFR part 200 as follows:

PART 200—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. The authority citation for part 200 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 45 U.S.C. 231f(b)(5) and 45 U.S.C. 362; § 200.4 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552; § 200.5 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552a; § 200.6 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552b; and § 200.7 also issued under 31 U.S.C. 3717.

2. Section 200.1 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(4), (b)(1), and (b)(2) to read as follows:

§ 200.1 Designation of central and field organization.

(a) * * *

(4) The headquarters of the Board is in Chicago, Illinois, at 844 North Rush Street. The Board maintains numerous district offices across the country in localities easily accessible to large numbers of railroad workers, in addition to three regional offices located in Atlanta, Georgia; Denver, Colorado; and, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

(b) *Internal organization.* (1) Reporting directly to the Board Members is the six member Executive

Committee. The Executive Committee is comprised of the General Counsel, who also serves as the Senior Executive Officer, the Director of Administration, the Director of Programs, the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Information Officer, and the Chief Actuary.

(2) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day operations of the agency. The Senior Executive Officer is responsible for direction and oversight of the Executive Committee. The General Counsel is responsible for advising the Board Members on major issues, interpreting the Acts and regulations administered by the Board, drafting and analyzing legislation, and planning, directing, and coordinating the work of the Office of General Counsel, the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, and the Office of Legislative Affairs through their respective directors, and the Office of Secretary to the Board. The Director of Programs is responsible for managing, coordinating, and controlling the program operations of the agency which carry out provisions of the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts. The Director of Administration is responsible for managing, coordinating, and controlling certain administrative operations of the Board including the Bureau of Supply and Service, the Bureau of Human Resources, the Office of Public Affairs, and the Office of Equal Opportunity. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the financial management of the agency, and the Chief Information Officer is responsible for coordinating the agency's information resources management program. The Board's Chief Actuary is responsible for the actuarial program of the Board. The Chief Actuary is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

Dated: August 27, 2001.

By Authority of the Board.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 01-22271 Filed 9-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Part 1

[Docket No.: 010815207-1207-01]

RIN 0651-AB41

Requirements for Claiming the Benefit of Prior-Filed Applications Under Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: In implementing the provisions of the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 related to the eighteen-month publication of patent applications, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) revised the rules of practice related to requirements for claiming the benefit of a prior-filed application. The Office is now proposing to revise the time period for claiming the benefit of a prior-filed application in an application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), revise the time period for filing an English language translation of a non-English language provisional application, and make other technical corrections to the rules of practice related to eighteen-month publication. The Office is also proposing to make permanent a temporary rule that amends the rules of practice to include the current statutory provisions that define when national stage commencement occurs in an application filed under the PCT.

DATES: To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before October 5, 2001. No public hearing will be held.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to AB41comments@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Box Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, or by facsimile to (703) 872-9399, marked to the attention of Robert A. Clarke. Although comments may be submitted by mail or facsimile, the Office prefers to receive comments via the Internet. If comments are submitted by mail, the Office prefers that the comments be submitted on a DOS formatted 3 1/2 inch disk accompanied by a paper copy.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in