

agreement. The Administration expects that the Agreement will be a treaty, which will be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent necessary for ratification, and that certain changes would need to be made to Section 12 of the Toxic Substances Control Act and Section 17 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to meet an obligation to ensure that exports of PIC-listed chemicals do not occur contrary to decisions regarding those chemicals by importing countries.

In the negotiations, other countries have made proposals which would make eligible a somewhat broader range of chemicals than under the voluntary guidelines, and which would include information exchange provisions which, if accepted, could require other changes to TSCA and FIFRA, as well as the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. In particular, there are proposals to include provisions requiring notifications for exports of chemicals which are banned or severely restricted under national law (Article 11 of the proposed text), as well as certain proposals regarding labeling and material safety data sheets for chemicals (Article 12 of the proposed text).

The Department of State is issuing this notice to help ensure that potentially affected parties are aware of and knowledgeable about the parameters of these negotiations. In the future, we will be contacting interested organizations about planned briefings by mail or fax. Those organizations which cannot attend the meeting, but wish to remain informed, should provide Mr. Trigg Talley of the Department of State with their address, telephone and fax numbers.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Trigg Talley,

Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Environmental Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8554

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and

other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8554, Application for Renewal of Enrollment to Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before October 20, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Renewal of Enrollment to Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service.

OMB Number: 1545-0946.

Form Number: Form 8554.

Abstract: The information obtained from Form 8554 relates to the approval of continuing professional education programs and the renewal of the enrollment status for those individuals admitted (enrolled) to practice before the Internal Revenue Service. The information will be used by the Director of Practice to determine the qualifications of individuals who apply for renewal of enrollment.

Current Actions: Changes to Form 8554.

Line 5a was rewritten to clarify the circumstances for earning continuing professional education credits by passing the Special Enrollment Examination. Also, Item D was deleted because the information is no longer needed.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 39,500.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 1 hour, 12 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 47,400.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information

unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number.

Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: August 13, 1997.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program Between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Postal Service

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of computer matching program.

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) propose to conduct a computer matching program. The purpose of the program is to identify and locate USPS employees who owe delinquent debts to the Federal Government as a result of their participation in benefit programs

administered by VA. Once identified and located, VA will pursue collection of debts through voluntary payments. If such payments are not forthcoming, VA may request USPS to offset up to 15 percent of the employees' disposable pay as authorized under the provisions of the Debt Collection Act of 1982.

The legal authority for undertaking this matching program is contained in the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-365), 31 U.S.C. Chapter 37, Subchapter I (General) and Subchapter II (Claims of the United States Government), 31 U.S.C. 3711 (Collection and Compromise) and 5 U.S.C. 5514 (Installment Deduction for Indebtedness). These statutes authorize Federal agencies to offset a Federal employee's salary as a means of satisfying delinquent debts owed the United States. VA and USPS have concluded an agreement to conduct the matching program pursuant to provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (15 U.S.C. 552a(o)). USPS will act as recipient (i.e., matching) agency. VA will provide a tape extract to USPS that contains the name and social security number (SSN) of each record subject. USPS will compare the tape extract against its database of employee records, establishing "hits" (i.e., individuals common to both tapes) on the basis of matched SSN's. For each hit, USPS will disclose to VA the following information: name, SSN,

home address and employee type (permanent or temporary).

Records To Be Matched: The systems of records maintained by the respective agencies from which records will be disclosed for the purpose of this computer match are as follows:

USPS: Finance Records—Payroll System (USPS 050.020) containing records of approximately 800,000 employees. Disclosure will be made under routine use of 24 of that system, a full description of which was last published at 57 FR 57515 (December 4, 1992).

VA: Accounts Receivable Records—VA (88VA20A6) containing records of approximately 300,000 debtors. Disclosure will be made under routine use No. 7 of that system, a full description of which was last published in 61 FR 60148 on November 26, 1996.

The matching program is expected to begin on or about September 19, 1997, and continue in effect for 18 months. The agreement governing the matching program and, thus, the matching program, may be extended an additional 12 months with the respective approval of VA's and USPS' Data Integrity Boards. Such extension must occur within three months prior to expiration of the 18-month period set forth above and under the terms set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D).

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments,

suggestions, or objections regarding the proposal to conduct the matching program to the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. All relevant material received before September 19, 1997, will be considered. All written comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Fridays, except holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Gottsacker, Debt Management Center (389/00A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota 55111, (612) 725-1844.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information is required by the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(12)). A copy of this notice has been provided to both Houses of Congress and OMB.

Approved: August 5, 1997.

Hershel Gober,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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