

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 159,925.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 3,974 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$350,627.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2024–11536 Filed 5–24–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2024–0010]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, FRA seeks approval of the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below. Before submitting this ICR to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval, FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified in the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be submitted on *regulations.gov* to the docket, Docket No. FRA–2024–0010. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket, including any personal information provided. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number (2130–0596) in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in a subsequent 30-day notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Arlette Mussington, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *arlette.mussington@dot.gov* or telephone: (571) 609–1285 or Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *joanne.swafford@dot.gov* or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60 days’ notice to the public to allow comment on information collection activities before seeking OMB approval of the activities. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. Specifically, FRA invites interested parties to comment on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA’s estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1).

FRA believes that soliciting public comment may reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information that Federal statutes and regulations mandate. In summary, comments received will advance three objectives: (1) reduce reporting burdens; (2) organize information collection requirements in a “user-friendly” format to improve the use of such information; and (3) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3501.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Conductor Certification.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0596.

Abstract: FRA’s conductor certification regulation (49 CFR part 242) requires railroads to have a formal program for certifying any person as a

conductor. As part of that program, railroads are required to have a process for determining competency to serve as a conductor through training, testing, and qualifying prospective conductors and existing conductors before issuing each person certification or recertification. The regulation is intended to ensure that only those persons who meet minimum Federal safety standards serve as conductors.

FRA collects information to ensure that railroads and their employees fully comply with all the requirements of part 242, including a conductor certification/recertification program, fitness requirements, initial and periodic testing, and territorial qualifications.

In this 60-day notice, FRA made adjustments that decreased the previously approved burden hours from 49,761 hours to 46,858 hours. The decrease in burden is a result of the reduced amount of time per response for § 242.115(e) certification review for prior alcohol/drug conduct. The average time was reduced from 10 minutes to 5 minutes, providing a more accurate analysis of the time needed to complete the review.

Additionally, upon a detailed review of part 242, FRA made several adjustments to its estimated paperwork burdens in this ICR extension.¹ FRA determined that fewer employees were changing employers, therefore reducing the number of prior safety records being reviewed. FRA also found that the associated burdens related to substance abuse and medical conditions have decreased as fewer employees have medical conditions that require further evaluation or positive drug and alcohol tests. As a result of these decreased burdens, the number of certification denials due to medical conditions and substance abuse has also decreased.

Type of Request: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: 784 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

¹ The public can view all estimate adjustments to FRA’s active ICRs in the Supporting Statements published at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/>. The Supporting Statement for this ICR will be available after the 30-day **Federal Register** notice is published in *reginfo.gov*.

³ Totals may not add up due to rounding.

REPORTING BURDEN

CFR section	Respondent universe	Total annual responses (A)	Average time per response (B)	Total annual burden hours (C = A * B)	Wage rate (E)	Total cost equivalent U.S. dollars (D = C * E)
242.9—Waivers—Petitions	784 railroads	1 waiver petition	3.00 hours	3.00	85.93	257.79
242.103(b)–(c)(2)—Approval of design of individual railroad programs by FRA—Certification programs for new railroads.	784 new railroads	3 new conductor certification programs.	8.00 hours	24.00	123.41	2,961.84
—(c)(1) Conductor certification submission—Copies to rail labor organizations (RLOs).	784 railroads	6 certification program submission copies.	15.00 minutes	1.50	85.93	128.90
—(c)(2) Affirmative statements that copies of submissions were sent to RLOs.	784 railroads	6 affirmative statements.	15.00 minutes	1.50	85.93	128.90
—(d) RLOs submit comments on RR programs.	784 railroads	6 certified comments	4.00 hours	24.00	85.93	2,062.32
—(g) Non-conforming program revised and resubmitted to FRA.	784 railroads	15 revised programs	3.00 hours	45.00	85.93	3,866.85
—(h)(2) Resubmitted certification programs still not conforming and then resubmitted.	784 railroads	3 resubmitted certification programs.	2.00 hours	6.00	85.93	515.58
—(i)(1)–(2) Certification programs materially modified after initial FRA approval.	784 railroads	96 certificate program material modifications.	2.00 hours	192.00	85.93	16,498.56
—(i)(3) Materially modified programs disapproved by FRA and then revised.	784 railroads	20 modified certification programs.	2.00 hours	40.00	85.93	3,437.20
—Revised programs disapproved and then re-submitted.	<i>The estimated paperwork burden for this requirement is included under §242.103(i)(3).</i>					
242.107(c)—Types of service—emergency training for reclassification to different type of certification.	35 railroads	400 records of trainings.	2.00 minutes	13.00	63.07	840.72
242.109—Determinations by RRs before certification or recertification and the opportunity for candidates to comment on their prior safety conduct record.	784 railroads	300 records + 300 comments.	30 minutes + 10 minutes.	225	85.93	19,334.25
242.111(b)—Prior Safety Conduct as Motor Vehicle Operator—Eligibility determinations.	784 railroads	16,200 eligibility determinations.	10.00 minutes	2,700.00	85.93	232,011.00
—(c) Initial certification for 60 days	784 railroads	150 initial certifications.	10.00 minutes	25.00	85.93	2,148.25
—(d) Recertification for 60 days	784 railroads	125 re-certifications	10.00 minutes	21.00	85.93	1,804.53
—(f) Driver info not provided and request for waiver by persons/railroad.	<i>FRA anticipates that there will be zero waiver requests during this three-year collection period.</i>					
—(h) Request to obtain driver’s license information from licensing agency.	41,000 conductors ...	16,200 written requests.	15.00 minutes	4,050.00	63.07	255,433.50
—(j) Requests for additional information from driver licensing agency.	<i>The estimated paperwork burden for this requirement is included under §242.111(h).</i>					
—(k) Notification to RR by persons of never having a license.	41,000 conductors ...	10 notices	10.00 minutes	2.00	63.07	126.14
—(l) Report of Motor Vehicle Incidents	41,000 conductors ...	400 self-reporting	10.00 minutes	68	63.07	4,288.76
—(m)–(n) Evaluation of driving record	41,000 conductors ...	16,200.00 motor vehicle record evaluations.	5.00 minutes	1,350.00	63.07	85,144.50
—(o)(1) DAC referral by RR after report of driving drug/alcohol incident.	784 railroads	200 DAC referrals ...	5.00 minutes	16.00	123.41	1,974.56
—(o)(2) DAC requests person supply records of prior counseling or treatment and the person must provide the records requested.	784 railroads	20 DAC requests	30.00 minutes	10.00	123.41	1,234.10
—(o)(3) Condition certifications based upon participation in aftercare or follow-up testing recommended by DAC.	784 railroads	40 conditional certification recommendations.	4.00 hours	160.00	123.41	19,745.60
242.113—Prior safety conduct as employee of a different railroad.	<i>The estimated paperwork burden for this requirement is included above in §242.109.</i>					
242.115(b)—Determination that person meets eligibility requirements.	41,000 conductors ...	16,200 determinations.	2.00 minutes	540.00	63.07	34,057.80
—(c) Written documents from DAC that person is not affected by a substance abuse disorder.	41,000 conductors ...	250 filed documents	30.00 minutes	125.00	123.41	15,426.25

REPORTING BURDEN—Continued

CFR section	Respondent universe	Total annual responses (A)	Average time per response (B)	Total annual burden hours (C = A * B)	Wage rate (E)	Total cost equivalent U.S. dollars (D = C * E)
—(d)(3) RR treats self-referral for substance abuse counseling by employee as confidential except with respect to ineligibility for certification.	784 railroads	30 self-referrals	5.00 minutes	2.5	123.41	308.53
—(e) Certification reviews for occurrence/documentation of prior alcohol/drug conduct by persons/conductors.	784 railroads	16,200 certification reviews.	5.00 minutes	1,350.00	123.41	166,603.50
—(e)(3)(i) Written determination that person not currently certified is ineligible and the conditions for the ineligibility period.	784 railroads	75 written determinations.	1.00 hour	75.00	123.41	9,255.75
—(e)(3)(ii) Notification to current conductor that recertification has been denied or certification has been revoked and the conditions for the ineligibility period.	784 railroads	75 notifications	30.00 minutes	37.50	85.93	3,222.38
—(e)(4) Persons/conductors waiving investigation/de-certifications.	41,000 conductors ...	150 waived investigations.	10.00 minutes	25.50	63.07	1,608.29
242.117(b)—Vision and hearing acuity—Determination vision standards met.	784 railroads	16,200 records	2.00 minutes	540.00	123.41	66,641.40
—(b) Determination hearing standards met.	784 railroads	16,200 records	2.00 minutes	540.00	123.41	66,641.40
—Additional gap hearing tests	<i>The estimated paperwork burden for this requirement is included under §242.117(b).</i>					
—(c)(1) Medical examiner certificate that person has been examined/ passed test.	784 railroads	16,200 file medical examiners.	10.00 minutes	2,700.00	123.41	333,207.00
—(c)(2)(i) Document standards can be met with conditions attached.	784 railroads	25 written documents.	30.00 minutes	12.50	123.41	1,542.63
—(c)(2)(ii) Document standards cannot be met even with conditions attached.	784 railroads	25 written documents.	30.00 minutes	12.50	123.41	1,542.63
—(e) Notation person needs corrective device (glasses or hearing aid, or both).	784 railroads	5,000 certificate notifications.	10.00 minutes	833.33	123.41	102,841.26
—(j) Person not meeting hearing or vision thresholds requests further medical evaluation for new determination.	784 railroads	50 requests + 50 determination.	30 minutes + 10 minutes.	² 33.50	63.07 123.41	2,625.73
—(j) Consultations by medical examiners with railroad officer and issue of conditional certification.	784 railroads	15 consults + 15 certifications.	30 minutes + 10 minutes.	³ 10.05	123.41 85.93	1,144.69
—(k) Notification by certified conductor of deterioration of vision/hearing.	784 railroads	20 notifications	10.00 minutes	3.00	63.07	189.21
242.119(a)—Training—New railroads—Training program.	3 new railroads	3 training programs	3.00 hours	9.00	123.41	1,110.69
—(a) Modification to training program	783 railroads	75 programs	30.00 minutes	38.00	85.93	3,265.34
—(c) Written documentation showing each person completed training for certification or recertification.	783 railroads	50 written documents.	30.00 minutes	25.00	85.93	2,148.25
—(d)(5) Modified training programs due to new laws, regulations, orders, technologies, procedures, or equipment.	784 railroads	24 modified training programs.	2.00 hours	48.00	85.93	4,124.64
—(f) Employee consultation with qualified supervisory employee if given written test to demonstrate knowledge of physical characteristics of any assigned territory.	784 railroads	1,000 consultations	15.00 minutes	250.00	63.07	15,767.50
—(i) Familiarization training for conductor of acquiring railroad from selling company/railroad prior to commencement of new operation.	784 railroads	20 training records ..	15.00 minutes	5.00	63.07	315.35
—(l) RR continuous education/training of conductors.	784 railroads	16,200 training records.	15.00 minutes	4,050.00	63.07	255,433.50
242.121(a)—(f)—Knowledge testing—Determining eligibility.	784 railroads	16,200 examination records.	15.00 minutes	4,050.00	63.07	255,433.50
—(g) Retests/re-examinations	784 railroads	1,000 retests or re-examination records.	15.00 minutes	250.00	63.07	15,767.50
242.123(a)—(e)—Monitoring operational Performance.	784 railroads	16,200 operational compliance test records.	10.00 minutes	2,700.00	85.93	232,011.00

REPORTING BURDEN—Continued

CFR section	Respondent universe	Total annual responses (A)	Average time per response (B)	Total annual burden hours (C = A * B)	Wage rate (E)	Total cost equivalent U.S. dollars (D = C * E)
—(f) Return to service that requires unannounced compliance test/record.	784 railroads	1,000 unannounced compliance test records.	10.00 minutes	167	85.93	14,350.31
242.125—Determination made by railroad relying on another railroad's certification.	784 railroads	100 determinations ..	30.00 minutes	50.00	63.07	3,153.50
242.127—Reliance on qualification requirements of other countries.	784 railroads	20 determinations	30.00 minutes	10.00	63.07	630.70
242.203(b)—Retaining information supporting determination—Records.	784 railroads	16,200 record retentions.	15.00 minutes	4,050.00	85.93	348,016.50
—(c) Amended electronic records	784 railroads	20 amended records	30.00 minutes	10.00	85.93	859.30
242.205—Identification of certified persons and recordkeeping. List of certified persons.	784 railroads	784 lists	5.00 minutes	63.00	85.93	5,413.59
242.209(a)—Maintenance of Certificates—Request to display certificate.	784 railroads	2,000 displayed certificates.	2.00 minutes	67.00	63.07	4,225.69
—(b) Notification by conductors that RR request to serve exceeds certification.	784 railroads	1,000 notifications ...	10.00 minutes	167	63.07	10,532.69
242.211—Replacement of certificates	784 railroads	500 temporary replacement certificates.	5.00 minutes	42.00	85.93	3,609.06
242.213(e)—Multiple certificates—Notification to engineer that no conductor is on train.	35 railroads	5 locomotive engineer notifications.	10.00 minutes	1.00 hour	85.93	85.93
—(f) Notification of denial of certification by individuals holding certifications from more than one railroad.	784 railroads	10 notifications	10.00 minutes	2.00	63.07	126.14
242.215(a)—Railroad oversight responsibilities—Review and analysis of administration of certification program.	53 railroads	53 reviews and analyses.	40.00 hours	2,120.00	85.93	182,171.60
—(d)–(i) Upon FRA's request, railroad provides a report of findings and conclusions.	784 railroads	53 reports	4.00 hours	212.00	85.93	18,217.16
242.301(a)—Determinations—Territorial qualification and joint operations.	320 railroads	1,000 determinations	15.00 minutes	250.00	63.07	15,767.50
—(b) Notification by persons who do not meet territorial qualification.	320 railroads	300 notifications	10.00 minutes	50.00	63.07	3,153.50
242.401(a)—Denial of certification—Notification to candidate of information that forms basis for denying certification and candidate response.	784 railroads	80 notices + 40 responses.	1 hour + 1 hour	4 120.00	123.41 63.07	12,395.60
—(c) Written notification of denial of certification.	784 railroads	40 notifications	1.00 hour	40.00	85.93	3,437.20
242.403—Criteria for revoking certification—Review of compliance conduct.	784 railroads	1,000 certification reviews.	15.00 minutes	250.00	63.07	15,767.50
242.407(a)—Process for revoking certification—Revocation for violations of section 242.115(e) and 242.403(e).	784 railroads	1,000 revoked certifications.	8.00 hours	8,000.00	123.41	987,280.00
—(b)(1) and (2) Immediate suspension of certificate.	784 railroads	1,000 suspended certification letters.	1.00 hour	1,000.00	85.93	85,930.00
—(b)(7) Hearing record	784 railroads	1,000 records	5.00 minutes	250.00	85.93	21,482.50
—(c) Written decisions by railroad official.	784 railroads	1,000 written decisions.	2.00 hours	2,000.00	123.41	246,820.00
—(c) Service of written decision on employee by RR + RR service proof.	784 railroads	1,000 served written decisions + 1,000 service proofs.	10 minutes + 5 minutes.	250.00	85.93	21,482.50
—(f) Written waiver of right to hearing	41,000 conductors ...	700 written waivers	10.00 minutes	117.00	63.07	7,379.19
—(g) Revocation of certification based on information that another railroad has done so.	784 railroads	15 revoked certifications.	10.00 minutes	3.00	123.41	370.23
—(j) Placing relevant information in record prior to suspending certification/convening hearing.	784 railroads	100 updated records	1.00 hour	100.00	85.93	8,593.00
Totals ⁵	784 railroads	220,123 responses ..	N/A	46,858	4,281,590

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 220,123.

² Breakdown of total burden hours is 25 hours × \$63.07 = \$1,576.75, and 8.5 hours × 123.41 = \$1,048.98 for a total of 33.50 hours and \$2,625.73 total cost equivalent.

³ Breakdown of total burden hours is 7.5 hours × \$123.41 = \$925.57, and 2.55 hours × 85.93 = \$219.12 for a total of 10.05 hours and \$1,144.69 total cost equivalent.

⁴ Breakdown of total burden hours is 80 hours × \$123.41 = \$9,872.80, and 40 hours × 63.07 = \$2,522.80 for a total of 120 hours and \$12,395.60 total cost equivalent.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 47,858 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$4,344,660.

⁵ Totals may not add up due to rounding.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2024–11539 Filed 5–24–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2024–0009]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, FRA seeks approval of the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below. Before submitting this ICR to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval, FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified in the ICR.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be submitted on *regulations.gov* to the docket, Docket No. FRA–2024–0009. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket, including any personal information provided. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number (2130–0590) in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in a subsequent 30-day notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Arlette Mussington, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *arlette.mussington@dot.gov* or telephone: (571) 609–1285 or Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *joanne.swafford@dot.gov* or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60 days’ notice to the public to allow comment on information collection activities before seeking OMB approval of the activities. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. Specifically, FRA invites interested parties to comment on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA’s estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1).

FRA believes that soliciting public comment may reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information that Federal regulations mandate. In summary, comments received will advance three objectives: (1) reduce reporting burdens; (2) organize information collection requirements in a “user-friendly” format to improve the use of such information; and (3) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Federal Railroad Administration Alleged Violation and Inquiry Form.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0590.

Abstract: The FRA Alleged Violation and Inquiry Form is a response to section 307(b) of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, which requires FRA to “provide a mechanism for the public to submit written reports of potential violations of Federal railroad safety and hazardous materials transportation laws, regulations, and orders to the Federal Railroad Administration.” The FRA Alleged Violation and Inquiry Form allows the public to submit alleged violations, complaints, or inquiries directly to FRA.

The form allows FRA to collect information necessary to investigate the alleged violation, complaint, or inquiry, and to follow up with the submitting party. FRA may share the information collected with partnering States under its State Safety Participation Program and with law enforcement agencies.

In this 60-day notice FRA has made adjustments that increase the overall burden from 70 to 120 hours. The increase in burden hours is a result of an increase in the estimated number of responses for the three-year information collection period. After a thorough review, FRA has estimated that responses will increase from 600 to 1000.

FRA will use the information collected under the form to identify problem areas and take necessary action to prevent potential accidents of the type indicated by the information submitted from occurring.

Type of Request: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Public.

Form(s): FRA F 6180.151.

Respondent Universe: Public.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

REPORTING BURDEN

CFR section	Respondent universe	Total annual responses (A)	Average time per response (B)	Total annual burden hours (C = A * B)	Total cost equivalent in U.S. dollars ¹ (D = C * wage rates)
FRA Alleged Violation and Inquiry Form FRA F 6180.151.	Public	1000 forms	7 minutes	120	\$5,173

¹ Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Employer Cost for Employee Compensation—December 2023. Hourly wage rate

used is \$30.33 plus overhead of 30%. Total burdened wage rate is \$43.11.

² Total may not add up due to rounding.