

amendments published at 59 FR 47361 on September 15, 1994.

DATES: The matching program will begin in September 1999, or 40 days after agreements by the parties participating in the match have been submitted to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, whichever is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the beginning date and may be extended an additional 12 months thereafter. The data exchange will begin at a date mutually agreed upon between OPM and OWCP after September 1, 1999, unless comments to the match are received that result in cancellation of the program. Subsequent matches will take place semi-annually on a recurring basis until one of the parties advises the other in writing of its intention to reevaluate, modify and/or terminate the agreement.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Kathleen M. McGettigan, Assistant Director for Systems, Finance and Administration, Office of Personnel Management Room 4312, 1900 E. Street NW. Washington, DC 20415.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marc Flaster, (202) 606-2115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The computer matching program between OPM and OWCP will involve comparison of beneficiaries under the FECA and the CSRA or the FERSA. The match will identify beneficiaries receiving payment of compensation for wage loss or death under the FECA and those receiving retirement or death benefits under the CSRA or FERS covering the same period of time.

The concurrent receipt of benefits under the FECA based on wage loss and under the CSRA or FERSA for retirement, or under the FECA, CSRA, or FERSA based on the death of a Federal employee is prohibited. OPM has the responsibility to monitor retirement annuity and survivor benefits paid under the retirement laws to ensure that it beneficiaries are not receiving benefits under the FECA which are prohibited during receipt of benefits under the CSRA or FERSA. Similarly, it is OWCP's responsibility to ensure that Federal employees or dependents of deceased Federal employees receiving benefits under the FECA are not also receiving benefits under CSRA or FERSA which are prohibited.

By comparing the information received through this computer matching program on a regular basis, the agencies will be able to make a timely and more accurate adjustment in their benefit payments. The match will prevent overpayments, fraud and abuse,

thus assuring that benefit payments are proper under the appropriate Acts.

Additional information regarding the matching program, including the authority for the program, a description of the matches, the personnel records to be matched, security safeguards, and plans for the disposal of records following completion of the match are provided in the text below.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

Matching of Records Between Office of Workers' Compensation Programs and the Office of Personnel Management

A. Authority. The Civil Service Retirement Act (CSRA), 5 U.S.C. 8331, *et seq.*; the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act (FERSA), 5 U.S.C. 8401, *et seq.*; and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA), 5 U.S.C. 8101, *et seq.*

B. Description of Computer Matching Program. OPM pays annuities or survivor benefits to individuals who also may receive benefits under the FECA. OPM's responsibility as the Administrator of CSRA and the FERSA is to assure that such benefit payments are proper and to prevent fraud and abuse. The computer matching program is an efficient method of determining whether these individuals are receiving benefits simultaneously from both OPM and OWCP which is prohibited by law.

OWCP will provide OPM with extracts of its payment files containing data (names, social security numbers, payee relationship codes, addresses, zip codes, and payment data) needed to identify the individual and determine if he or she is receiving benefits from both organizations at the same time. OPM will match OWCP's extract of its payment files against its payment records for the same dates to determine if benefits were being paid for the same day by both agencies. OPM will provide OWCP with a list of valid matches. Both organizations will detect, identify, and follow-up on payment of prohibited dual benefits. An individual identified as receiving prohibited dual benefits will be offered an opportunity to contest the findings and proposed actions and the opportunity to elect the benefits he or she wishes to receive. This due process will be provided to the individual before any payment adjustments are made.

C. Personnel Records to be Matched. The respective OPM and OWCP system of records cited above, which contain payment date on beneficiaries, will be matched.

D. Privacy Safeguards and Security. The personal privacy of the individuals whose names are included in the tapes is protected by strict adherence to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 and OMB's Guidance Interpreting the Provisions of Pub. L. 100-503, the Computer Matching and Privacy Act of 1988 (54 FR 25818). Security safeguards include limiting access only to the files agreed to and only to agency personnel having a "need to know". All automated records will be password protected and the data listing will be locked in file areas after normal duty hours. Records matched or created by the match will be stored in an area that is physically safe from access by unauthorized persons during normal work hours and after work, or when not in use.

E. Disposal of Records. The files will remain the property of the respective source agencies and all records including those not containing matches will be returned to the source agency for destruction. "Hits", those records relating to matched individuals, will be disposed of in accordance with the Privacy Act and the Federal Record Schedules after serving their purpose. The data obtained from confirmed hits will be entered in the claims file, subject to release only in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

[FR Doc. 99-24113 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Data Collection Available for Public Comment and Recommendations

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: Request to Non-Railroad

Employer for Information About Annuitant's Work and Earnings; OMB 3220-0107. Under Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), a railroad employee's retirement annuity or an annuity paid to the spouse of a railroad employee is subject to work deduction in the Tier II component of the annuity and any employee supplemental annuity for any month in which the annuitant works for a Last Pre-Retirement Non-Railroad Employer (LPE). LPE is defined as the last person, company, or institution, other than a

railroad employer, that employed an employee or spouse annuitant. In addition, the employee, spouse or divorced spouse Tier I annuity benefit is subject to work deductions under Section 2(F)(1) of the RRA for earnings from any non-railroad employer that are over the annual exempt amount.

The regulations pertaining to non-payment of annuities by reason of work are contained in 20 CFR 230.1 and 230.2.

The RRB utilizes Form RL-231-F, Request to Non-Railroad Employer for

Information About Annuitant's Work and Earnings, to obtain the information needed for determining if any work deduction should be applied because an annuitant worked in non-railroad employment after the annuity beginning date. One response is requested of each respondent. Completion is voluntary.

No changes are proposed to Form RL-231-F.

Estimate of Annual Respondent

Burden: The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows:

Form Nos.	Annual responses	Time (min)	Burden (hrs)
RL-231-F	300	30	150
Total	300	150

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 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

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Account and 62.9 percent of the taxes collected under such Sections 3211(b) and 3221(c) plus 100 percent of the taxes collected under Section 3221(d) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall be credited to the Railroad Retirement Supplemental Account.

By Authority of the Board.

Dated: September 7, 1999.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-24108 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

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Fund BD III for Variable Annuities ("Fund BD III"), The Travelers Fund BD IV for Variable Annuities ("Fund BD IV," together with Fund BD III, the "Separate Accounts"), and Tower Square Securities, Inc. ("Tower Square").

FILING DATE: The application was filed on September 18, 1997, and was amended and restated on June 24, 1998.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on October 1, 1999, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the SEC's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicants, Kathleen A. McGah, Esq., The Travelers Insurance Company, One Tower Square, Hartford, CT 06183.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lorna MacLeod, Attorney, or Mark Amorosi, Special Counsel, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management, at (202) 942-0670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee from the SEC's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Determination of Quarterly Rate of Excise Tax for Railroad Retirement Supplemental Annuity Program

In accordance with directions in Section 3221(c) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act (26 U.S.C., Section 3221(c)), the Railroad Retirement Board has determined that the excise tax imposed by such Section 3221(c) on every employer, with respect to having individuals in his employ, for each work-hour for which compensation is paid by such employer for services rendered to him during the quarter beginning October 1, 1999, shall be at the rate of 27 cents.

In accordance with directions in Section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, the Railroad Retirement Board has determined that for the quarter beginning October 1, 1999, 37.1 percent of the taxes collected under Sections 3211(b) and 3221(c) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall be credited to the Railroad Retirement

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-24006; File No. 812-10792]

The Travelers Insurance Company, et al.; Notice of Application

September 10, 1999.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice of application for an order under Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") granting relief from Sections 2(a)(32), 22(c), and 27(i)(2)(A) of the Act and Rule 22c-1 thereunder.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order to permit the offer and sale of variable annuity contracts ("Contracts") that offer an optional principal protection feature. Applicants also request an order on behalf of any other person who may become the principal underwriter for the Contracts (Future Underwriters').

APPLICANTS: The Travelers Insurance Company ("The Travelers"), The Travelers Life and Annuity Company ("Travelers Life," together with The Travelers, "Insurers"), The Travelers