

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on any or all of the following proposed activities by mail to either: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 17, Washington, DC 20590, or Ms. Debra Steward, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590. Commenters requesting FRA to acknowledge receipt of their respective comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard stating, "Comments on OMB control number \_\_\_\_." Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via facsimile to (202) 493-6230 or (202) 493-6170, or e-mail to Mr. Brogan at [robert.brogan@fra.dot.gov](mailto:robert.brogan@fra.dot.gov), or to Ms. Steward at [debra.steward@fra.dot.gov](mailto:debra.steward@fra.dot.gov). Please refer to the assigned OMB control number in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in response to this notice in a subsequent notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB for approval.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292) or Debra Steward, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6139). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13, 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 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 for comment on information collection activities before seeking approval for reinstatement or renewal by OMB. 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.10(e)(1), 1320.12(a). Specifically, FRA invites interested respondents to comment on the following summary of proposed information collection activities regarding (i) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (ii) 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; (iii) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (iv) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public by automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). See 44 U.S.C. § 3506(c)(2)(A)(i)-(iv); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1)(i)-(iv). FRA believes that soliciting public comment will promote its efforts to reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information mandated by Federal regulations. In summary, FRA reasons that comments received will advance three objectives: (i) Reduce reporting burdens; (ii) ensure that it organizes information collection

requirements in a "user friendly" format to improve the use of such information; and (iii) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

Below are brief summaries of the three currently approved information collection activities that FRA will submit for clearance by OMB as required under the PRA:

*Title:* Track Safety Standards (Gage Restraint Measurement Systems Amendment).

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0010.

*Abstract:* Qualified persons inspect track and take action to allow safe passage of trains and ensure compliance with prescribed Track Safety Standards. FRA amended the Track Safety Standards to provide procedures for track owners to use Gage Restraint Measurement Systems (GRMS) to assess the ability of their track to maintain proper gage. Under the current Track Safety Standards, track owners must evaluate a track's gage restraint capability through visual inspections conducted at frequencies and intervals specified in the standards. With this amendment, track owners may monitor gage restraint on a designated track segment using GRMS procedures. Individuals employed by the track owner to inspect track must be permitted to exercise their discretion in judging whether the track segment should also be visually inspected by a qualified track inspector.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Affected Public:* Businesses.

*Respondent Universe:* 685 railroads.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion.

*Affected Public:* Businesses.

*Reporting Burden:*

CFR section	Respondent universe (railroads)	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total annual burden hours	Total annual burden cost
213.14—Excepted Track .....	160	25 orders .....	15 minutes .....	6	\$228
—Notification to FRA—Removal of Track Segment From Excepted Statutes.	160	20 notifications .....	10 minutes .....	3	114
213.5—Responsibility of Track Owners—Assignment.	685	12 notifications .....	8 hours .....	96	3,648
213.7—Designation of Qualified Persons to Supervise Certain Renewals and Inspect Track.	685	1,500 names .....	10 minutes .....	250	9,500
—Designations (Partially Qualified under Paragraph c).	31	250 names .....	10 minutes .....	42	1,596
213.17—Exemptions .....	685	8 petitions .....	24 hours .....	192	7,296
213.57—Curves; Elevations & Speed Limits.	685	4 requests .....	40 hours .....	160	6,080
—Notification to FRA .....	685	2 notifications .....	45 minutes .....	2	76
—Requests for FRA Approval—Test Plans.	1	4 test plans .....	16 hours .....	64	2,432
213.110—Gage Restraint Meas. Sys.—Implementing.	685	40 notifications + 4 tech. rpts.	45 minutes/4 hrs .....	46	1,748 46,250