

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration****Proposed Information Collection Request; Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 78-6**

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of a currently approved collection of information, Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 78-6. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the contact section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 2, 1997. The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarify the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Pension and

Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, (202) 219-7933, FAX (202) 219-4745.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 78-6 allows (a) purchase of personal property by a multiple employer welfare benefit plan maintained for the purpose of providing apprenticeship or other training programs (hereinafter referred to as an apprenticeship plan) from an employer who makes contributions to such plan (hereinafter referred to as a contributing employer) or from a wholly-owned subsidiary of such an employer, (b) the leasing of personal property by an apprenticeship plan from a contributing employer or from a wholly owned subsidiary of such an employer, and (c) the leasing of real property (other than office space within the contemplation of section 408(b)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act)) by an apprenticeship plan from a contributing employer, a wholly owned subsidiary of such an employer, or from an employee organization any of whose members' work results in contributions being made to the apprenticeship plan. In the absence of this exemption, certain aspects of these transactions might be prohibited by sections 406(a)(1) (A), (C) and (D) of the Act.

II. Current Actions

This existing collection of information should be continued because without the relief provided by this exemption, such apprenticeship plans would have difficulty operating in accordance with the purposes for which they were established. The recordkeeping requirements incorporated within the class exemption are intended to protect the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries. The exemption has one basic information collection condition. The exemption requires that apprenticeship plans which enter into transactions covered by the exemption must maintain the records of such transactions for a period of six years from the termination of such transactions.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 78-6.

OMB Number: 1210-0080.

Recordkeeping: 6 years.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Individuals.

Total Respondents: 1,000.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Responses: 5,000

Average Time Per Response: 5 minutes

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 417

Total Burden Cost (capital/start-up): \$0.00

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.00

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 26, 1997.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Office of Policy and Research.

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Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Proposed Information Collection Request; Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 94-20

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95), 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of a currently approved collection of information, Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 94-20. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the contact section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 2, 1997.

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the