

Background

FMCSA registers for-hire motor carriers of regulated commodities and of passengers under 49 U.S.C. 13902(a); surface freight forwarders under 49 U.S.C. 13903; property brokers under 49 U.S.C. 13904; and certain Mexico domiciled motor carriers under 49 U.S.C. 13902(c). These motor carriers may conduct transportation services in the United States only if they are registered with FMCSA. Each registration is effective from the date specified and remains in effect for such period as the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) determines by regulations.

Prior to 2015, all entities seeking authority (both first-time applicants and registered entities seeking additional authorities) were required to apply for such authority using the OP-1 series of forms, including OP-1, OP-1(P), OP-1(FF), OP-1(NNA), and OP-1(MX) (for Mexico-domiciled carriers only).

The final rule titled “Unified Registration System,” (78 FR 52608) dated August 23, 2013, implemented statutory provisions for an online registration system for entities that are subject to FMCSA’s licensing, registration, and certification regulations. The Unified Registration System (URS) streamlines the registration process and serves as a clearinghouse and repository of information on motor carriers, brokers, freight forwarders, intermodal equipment providers, hazardous materials safety permit applicants, and cargo tank facilities required to register with FMCSA. When developing URS, FMCSA planned that the OP-1 series of forms—except for OP-1(MX)—would ultimately be folded into one overarching electronic application (MCSA-1) which would be used by all motor carriers seeking authority.

FMCSA began a phased rollout of URS in 2015. The first phase, which went into effect on December 12, 2015, impacted only first-time applicants seeking an FMCSA-issued registration. FMCSA had planned subsequent rollout phases for existing registrants; however, there were substantial delays, and subsequent phases have not been rolled out to date.

On January 17, 2017, FMCSA issued a final rule titled “Unified Registration System; Suspension of Effectiveness,” which indefinitely suspended URS effective dates for existing registrants only (82 FR 5292). Pursuant to this final rule, FMCSA is still accepting forms OP-1, OP-1(P), OP-1(FF), and OP-1(NNA) for existing registrants wishing to apply for additional authorities.

Separately, FMCSA requires Form OP-1(MX) for new and existing Mexico-domiciled motor carriers that wish to operate beyond the U.S. municipalities on the U.S.-Mexico border and their commercial zones. Information collected through URS, utilizing the MCSA-1, does not include registration form OP-1(MX), which continues to remain a paper form outside URS.

Forms in the OP-1 series request information to identify the applicant, the nature and scope of its proposed operations, a narrative description of the applicant’s safety policies and procedures, and information regarding the drivers and vehicles it plans to use in U.S. operations. The OP-1 series also requests information on the applicant’s familiarity with relevant safety requirements, the applicant’s willingness to comply with those requirements during its operations, and the applicant’s willingness to meet any specific statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to its proposed operations. Information collected through these forms aids FMCSA in determining the type of operation a company may run, the cargo it may carry, and the resulting level of insurance coverage the applicant will be required to obtain and maintain to continue its operating authority.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) whether the proposed collection is necessary for the performance of FMCSA’s functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for FMCSA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information.

Issued under the authority of 49 CFR 1.87.

Thomas P. Keane,

Associate Administrator, Office of Research and Registration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2023-0096]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that on November 13, 2023, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) petitioned the Federal Railroad

Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 231 (Railroad Safety Appliance Standards). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2023-0096.

Specifically, UPRR requested a waiver from 49 CFR 231.27(h), *Uncoupling levers*, to disable the uncoupling levers on prototype rail tie cars used solely in “Rail Train” service, which is UPRR’s non-revenue service to maintain its rail network. UPRR seeks to disable the uncoupling levers when moving both loaded and empty cars. The cars would be used solely for delivering rail ties to maintenance-of-way (MoW) employees through the UPRR network, and they are equipped with additional air and electrical train lines that risk damage if the cars become inadvertently uncoupled. In support of its request, UPRR states that the “prototype cars reduce risk for MoW personnel by eliminating the current risks associated with machine unloading of ties from gondola cars.”

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by July 8, 2024 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the

commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety
Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024-09867 Filed 5-6-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8976

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 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 information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The IRS is soliciting comments concerning, Notice of Intent to Operate.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 8, 2024, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Andres Garcia, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or by email to pra.comments@irs.gov. Include “OMB Number 1545-2268—Notice of Intent to Operate Under Section 501(c)(4)” in the subject line of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this collection should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, at (202) 317-5753, or at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or through the internet at Martha.R.Brinson@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Notice of Intent to Operate Under Section 501(c)(4).

OMB Number: 1545-2268.

Form Number: 8976.

Abstract: The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (the PATH Act) section 506 to the Internal Revenue Code (Code) requires an organization

described in section 501(c)(4), no later than 60 days after the organization is established, to notify the Secretary that it is operating as a section 501(c)(4) organization (the notification). Section 506(b) provides that the notification must include: (1) The name, address, and taxpayer identification number of the organization; (2) the date on which, and the State under the laws of which, the organization was organized; and (3) a statement of the purpose of the organization.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,500.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 45 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,875.

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. Comments will be 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 has 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 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: April 30, 2024.

Martha R. Brinson,

Tax Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2024-09942 Filed 5-6-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

Notice of Open Public Hearing

AGENCY: U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

ACTION: Notice of open public hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The Commission is mandated by Congress to investigate, assess, and report to Congress annually on “the national security implications of the economic relationship between the United States and the People’s Republic of China.” Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission will hold a public hearing in Washington, DC on May 23, 2024 on “Key Economic Strategies for Leveling the U.S.-China Playing Field: Trade, Investment, and Technology.”

DATES: The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public will be able to attend in person at a location TBD or view a live webcast via the Commission’s website at www.uscc.gov. Visit the Commission’s website for updates to the hearing location or possible changes to the hearing schedule. Reservations are not required to view the hearing online or in person.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public seeking further information concerning the hearing should contact Jameson Cunningham, 444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 602, Washington, DC 20001; telephone: 202-624-1496, or via email at jcunningham@uscc.gov. Reservations are not required to attend the hearing.

ADA Accessibility: For questions about the accessibility of the event or to request an accommodation, please contact Jameson Cunningham via email at jcunningham@uscc.gov. Requests for an accommodation should be made as soon as possible, and at least five business days prior to the event.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: This is the fifth public hearing the Commission will hold during its 2024 reporting cycle. The hearing will initially assess U.S. trade strategies to address China’s nonmarket practices. Next, the hearing will review U.S. measures to limit the flow of key technologies to China and assess the United States’ export control mechanisms. Then, the hearing will consider the design of U.S. outbound investment restrictions, the relevant review processes, and their role in strategic competition with China. Finally, the hearing will assess the