

reports electronically under the final rules.

List of Subjects in 11 CFR Part 104

Campaign funds, Political committees and parties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, subchapter A, chapter I of title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 104—REPORTS BY POLITICAL COMMITTEES

1. The authority citation for part 104 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 2 U.S.C. 431(1), 431(8), 431(9), 432(i), 434, 438(a), 438(b), 439a.

§ 104.17 [Reserved]

2. Section 104.17 is added and reserved.

3. Section 104.18 is added, to read as follows:

§ 104.18 Electronic filing of reports (2 U.S.C. 432(d) and 434(a)(11)).

(a) *General.* A political committee that files reports with the Commission, as provided in 11 CFR part 105, may choose to file its reports in an electronic format that meets the requirements of this section. If a committee chooses to file its reports electronically, and its first electronic report passes the Commission's validation program in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, it must continue to file in an electronic format all reports covering financial activity for that calendar year, unless the Commission determines that extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances have made it impracticable for the committee to continue filing electronically.

(b) *Format specifications.* Reports filed electronically shall conform to the technical specifications described in the Federal Election Commission's Electronic Filing Specifications Requirements. The data contained in the computerized magnetic media provided to the Commission shall be organized in the order specified by the Electronic Filing Specifications Requirements.

(c) *Acceptance of reports filed in electronic format.* (1) Each committee that submits an electronic report shall check the report against the Commission's validation program before it is submitted, to ensure that the files submitted meet the Commission's format specifications and can be read by the Commission's computer system. Each report submitted in an electronic format under this section shall also be checked upon receipt against the Commission's validation program. The

Commission's validation program is available on request and at no charge.

(2) A report that does not pass the validation program will not be accepted by the Commission and will not be considered filed. If a committee submits a report that does not pass the validation program, the Commission will notify the committee that the report has not been accepted.

(d) *Amended reports.* If a committee files an amendment to a report that was filed electronically, it shall also submit the amendment in an electronic format. The committee shall submit a complete version of the report as amended, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. In addition, the amended report shall contain electronic flags or markings that point to the portions of the report that are being amended.

(e) *Signature requirements.* The committee's treasurer, or any other person having the responsibility to file a designation, report or statement under this subchapter, shall verify the report in one of the following ways: by submitting a signed certification on paper that is submitted with the computerized media; or by submitting a digitized copy of the signed certification as a separate file in the electronic submission. Each verification submitted under this section shall certify that the person has examined the report or statement and, to the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete. Any verification under this section shall be treated for all purposes (including penalties for perjury) in the same manner as a verification by signature on a report submitted in a paper format.

(f) *Schedules and forms with special requirements.* The following list of schedules, materials, and forms have special signature and other requirements and reports containing these documents shall include, in addition to providing the required data within the electronic report, either a paper copy submitted with the committee's electronic report or a digitized version submitted as a separate file in the electronic submission: Schedule C-1 (Loans and Lines of Credit From Lending Institutions), including copies of loan agreements required to be filed with that Schedule, Schedule E (Itemized Independent Expenditures), Form 5 (Report of Independent Expenditures Made and Contributions Received), and Form 8 (Debt Settlement Plan). The committee shall submit any paper materials together with the electronic media containing the committee's report.

(g) *Preservation of reports.* For any report filed in electronic format under this section, the treasurer shall retain a machine-readable copy of the report as the copy preserved under 11 CFR 104.14(b)(2). In addition, the treasurer shall retain the original signed version of any documents submitted in a digitized format under paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section.

Dated: August 9, 1996.

John Warren McGarry,
Vice Chairman, Federal Election Commission.
[FR Doc. 96-20804 Filed 8-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

13 CFR Part 121

Small Business Size Standards; Reinstate a Class Waiver of the Nonmanufacturer Rule

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Reinstate a Class Waiver of the Nonmanufacturer Rule for one class of metal products.

SUMMARY: On July 27, 1994, the Small Business Administration (SBA) published a notice in the Federal Register (Vol. 59, No. 143, FR 38115) that terminated: the class waiver for bars and rods, nickel-copper, nickel-copper-aluminum, and high-nickel-alloy and copper, copper-nickel, aluminum-bronze, and naval brass [Federal Supply Code (FSC) 9530, Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) 3356] (hereafter referred to as bars and rods); and the class waiver for structural shapes, angles, channels, tees and zees, aluminum and high-nickel-alloy (hereafter referred to as structural shapes). It has been brought to SBA's attention by the Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Industrial Supply Center, that a misclassification occurred because SBA combined these two different groups of metal products into a single classification. This mistake inadvertently resulted in the termination of the class waiver for bars and rods. The SBA is therefore reinstating the class waiver under the Nonmanufacturer Rule for bars and rods. The termination of the waiver of the Nonmanufacturer Rule for structural shapes remains in effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 15, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Wm. Loines, Office of Government Contracting, phone number (202) 205-6475.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public Law 100-656, enacted on November 15,

1988, incorporated into the Small Business Act the previously existing requirement that recipients of Federal contracts set aside for small businesses, or the SBA 8(a) Program, must provide the products of small business manufacturers or processors. The SBA regulations imposing this requirement are found at 13 CFR 121.406(b).

Section 210 of Public Law 101-574 further amended the Small Business Act to allow for waivers for classes of products for which there are no small business manufacturers or processors "available to participate in the Federal procurement market," 15 U.S.C. 637(a)(17)(B)(iv)(II).

Decision To Reinstate the Class Waiver

SBA announced its decision to grant a class waiver for bars and rods in the Federal Register on May 15, 1991 (Vol. 56, No. 94 FR 22306).

SBA published a notice terminating the class waiver for bars and rods and structural shapes on July 27, 1994 (Vol. 59, No. 143 FR 38115). On October 24, 1994, the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Defense Industrial Supply Center (DISC) brought to SBA's attention that a misclassification had occurred by grouping bars and rods with structural shapes which inadvertently resulted in the termination of the class waiver for both bars and rods. The termination of the waiver for structural shapes was correct and remains in effect.

The waiver previously granted for bars and rods, nickel-copper, nickel-copper-aluminum, and high-nickel-alloy and copper, copper-nickel, aluminum-bronze, and naval brass [Federal Supply Code (FSC) 9530, Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) 3356] should still be in effect, effective upon date of publication of this notice. Small business set-aside or SBA 8(a) Program contracts for this class of products may rely on this waiver where the solicitation is dated within ninety (90) days of the date this notice appears in the Federal Register.

Dated: August 12, 1996.

Judith A. Roussel,

Associate Administrator for Government Contracting.

[FR Doc. 96-20823 Filed 8-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board (Board) amends its regulations in order to provide guidelines regarding the selection, payment, responsibilities, and monitoring of representative payees under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. This amendment is being made to improve the administration of the Board's representative payee program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas W. Sadler, Assistant General Counsel, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, (312) 751-4513; TDD (312) 751-4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 351-368) provides a system of unemployment and sickness benefits for railroad employees who meet certain eligibility requirements under that Act. On rare occasions, a claimant is incompetent to file for or receive benefits under the Act without the assistance of a representative payee. Under such circumstances, section 12(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act expressly authorizes the Board to make payments, or conduct transactions, directly with the claimant, with a legally appointed guardian of the claimant, or with any other person on the claimant's behalf, even though the claimant is an incompetent for whom a guardian is acting. The provisions of section 12(a) are applicable to benefits claimed or paid under any Act administered in whole or in part by the Board, including the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

There has been growing concern in the Congress to assure that surrogate decision-making services, including representative-payee services, are provided in a uniform, high quality manner which maximizes the potential of every individual for self-reliance and independence.

The Board is currently in the process of a comprehensive program to review and revise its regulations. Part 348 is added at this time to address concerns that adequate safeguards be provided where payment of a benefit under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act is made to a representative payee rather than directly to the claimant. Part 348 incorporates the extensive regulations found in part 266 of this chapter dealing with appointment of a representative payee under the Railroad Retirement Act.

The Board previously published part 348 as a proposed rule inviting comment by June 10, 1996 (61 FR 16067). No comments were received. The Board has, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, determined that this is not a significant regulatory action for purposes of Executive Order 12866; therefore, no regulatory impact analysis is required. Information collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control numbers 3220-0052 and 3220-0151.

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 348

Railroad employees, Railroad unemployment insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Board hereby adds a new Part 348 to title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 348—REPRESENTATIVE PAYMENT

Sec.

348.1 Introduction.

348.2 Recognition by the Board of a person to act in behalf of another.

Authority: 45 U.S.C. 355, 45 U.S.C. 231k.

§ 348.1 Introduction.

(a) *Explanation of representative payment.* This part explains the principles and procedures that the Board follows in determining whether to make representative payment and in selecting a representative payee. It also explains the responsibilities that a representative payee has concerning the use of the funds which he or she receives on behalf of a claimant. A representative payee may be either a person or an organization selected by the Board to receive benefits on behalf of a claimant. A representative payee will be selected if the Board believes that the interest of a claimant will be served by representative payment rather than direct payment of benefits. Generally, the Board will appoint a representative payee if it determines that the claimant is not able to manage or direct the management of benefit payments in his or her interest.

(b) *Statutory authority.* Section 12 of the Railroad Retirement Act, which is also applicable to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, provides that every claimant shall be conclusively presumed to have been competent until the date on which the Board receives a notice in writing that a legal guardian or other person legally vested with the care of the person or estate of an incompetent or a minor has been appointed: *Provided, however,*

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

20 CFR Part 348

RIN 3220-AB14

Representative Payment

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.