

benefits, or coverage of earnings, call our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of Meeting: This meeting is open to the public.

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting is to identify the means to prevent identity theft in governmental and private transactions. Identity theft is on the rise. The illegal use of Social Security numbers (SSNs) and other means of identification by individuals who seek to profit from the illegal use of another's identification has increased exponentially in recent years. In Fiscal Year 1999 alone, the SSA OIG Fraud Hotline received approximately 62,000 allegations involving SSN misuse. Specifically, 32,000 allegations had SSN misuse implications involving SSA programs and an additional 30,000 allegations represented SSN misuse with no direct program implications. These are very concerning statistics.

It is imperative that SSNs remain secure with the individual SSN holder. However, the proliferate use of the SSN as an identifier not only by private entities and corporations, but also by medical providers and government entities, reduces the security of SSNs and increases the likelihood of illegal SSN use for purposes of committing identity theft. The expansion and popularity of the Internet to effect commercial transactions has increased the opportunities to commit crimes involving identity theft. At the same time, the expansion and popularity of the Internet to post official information for the benefit of citizens and customers has increased opportunities to obtain SSNs for illegal purposes.

While accurate means of identification are a necessity for commercial and private entities, medical providers and governmental entities, as well as individuals, when such means of identification are subject to misuse and fraud, it is of little use to those who need it most.

How to decrease the opportunity for disclosure and misuse of SSNs will be the subject of this workshop. The competing interests of individuals, concerned with irresponsible SSN disclosure and criminal SSN misuse, must be balanced against the legitimate needs of medical providers, law enforcement and other governmental entities, and commercial establishments to maintain clearly identifiable records.

To inform the SSA OIG prior to the workshop, we are seeking views on this subject from industry representatives, consumer representatives, the academic community, and the larger public from

the United States and other countries, including views on the elements of fair and effective methods of victim assistance and remediation. Views are welcome on any aspect of this subject.

Dated: August 10, 2000.

James G. Huse, Jr.,

Inspector General of Social Security.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

**Privacy Act of 1974 as amended;
Computer Matching Program (SSA/
Texas Workers Compensation
Commission) Match Number 1092**

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of computer matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act, as amended, this notice announces a computer matching program that SSA plans to conduct with Texas Workers Compensation Commission.

DATES: SSA will file a report of the subject matching program with the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The matching program will be effective as indicated below.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may comment on this notice by either telefax to (410) 966-2935 or writing to the Associate Commissioner, Office of Program Support, 2-Q-16 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401. All comments received will be available for public inspection at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Associate Commissioner for Program Support as shown above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. General

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Public Law (Pub. L.) 100-503), amended the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) by describing the manner in which computer matching involving Federal agencies could be performed and adding certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving Federal benefits. Section 7201 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-508) further amended the Privacy Act regarding protections for such

individuals. The Privacy Act, as amended, regulates the use of computer matching by Federal agencies when records in a system of records are matched with other Federal, State, or local government records.

It requires Federal agencies involved in computer matching programs to:

(1) Negotiate written agreements with the other agency or agencies participating in the matching programs;

(2) Obtain the Data Integrity Boards' approval of the match agreements;

(3) Furnish detailed reports about matching programs to Congress and OMB;

(4) Notify applicants and beneficiaries that their records are subject to matching; and

(5) Verify match findings before reducing, suspending, terminating, or denying an individual's benefits or payments.

B. SSA Computer Matches Subject to the Privacy Act

We have taken action to ensure that all of SSA's computer matching programs comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act, as amended.

Dated: August 16, 2000.

Susan M. Daniels,

Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs.

**Notice of Computer Matching Program,
Texas Workers Compensation
Commission (TWCC) With the Social
Security Administration (SSA)**

A. Participating Agencies

SSA and Texas Workers Compensation Commission (TWCC)

B. Purpose of the Matching Program

The purpose of this pilot matching program is to identify Title II and/or Title XVI recipients who are receiving workers compensation benefits. This pilot will facilitate the identification of changes in workers compensation benefits and status, thereby ensuring efficient and accurate processing of entitlement and post eligibility workloads.

C. Authority for Conducting Matching Program

Section 205(a) and 1631 (e)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act.

**D. Categories of Records and
Individuals Covered by the Matching
Program**

On the basis of certain identifying information, TWCC will provide SSA with electronic files containing workers compensation records.

SSA will then match the TWCC data with beneficiary information

maintained in the Master Beneficiary Record, Supplemental Security Income Record, and the Master Files of Social Security Number Holders and SSN Applications.

E. Inclusive Dates of the Match

The matching program shall become effective no sooner than 40 days after notice for the program is sent to Congress and OMB, or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if certain conditions are met.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 2000-7693]

Guidelines for Assessing Merchant Mariners Through Demonstrations of Proficiency as Officers in Charge of Navigational Watches on Ships of 500 Gross Tonnage or More as Measured Under the International Tonnage Convention (ITC)

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of, and seeks public comments on, the national performance measures proposed here for use as guidelines when mariners demonstrate their proficiency as Officers in Charge of Navigational Watches on ships of 500 gross tonnage ITC or more. A working group of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) developed and recommended national performance measures for this proficiency. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before October 23, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please identify your comments and related material by the docket number of this rulemaking [USCG 2000-7693]. Then, to make sure they enter the docket just once, submit them by just one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this Notice. Comments and related material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this Notice, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The measures proposed here are also available from Mr. Mark Gould or Mr. Gerald Miente, Maritime Personnel Qualifications Division, Office of Operating and Environmental Standards, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, telephone 202-267-0229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this Notice or on the national performance measures proposed here, write or call Mr. Gould or Mr. Miente where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Ms. Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Action is the Coast Guard Taking?

Table A-II/1 of the Code accompanying the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended in 1995, articulates qualifications for ensuring merchant mariners' attaining the minimum standard of competence through demonstrations of their proficiency as Officers in Charge of Navigational Watches on ships of 500 gross tonnage ITC or more. The Coast Guard tasked MERPAC with referring to the Table, modifying and specifying it as it deemed necessary, and recommending national performance measures. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC and is proposing them here for use as guidelines for assessing that

proficiency. Next we set forth the Five Skills by which a mariner must demonstrate that proficiency and we give an example of a Performance Condition, a Performance Behavior, and three Performance Standards for one of the skills.

Five Skills: Plan and conduct a passage and determine position; Maintain a safe navigational watch; Use radar and ARPA to maintain the safety of navigation; Transmit and receive information by visual signaling; and Maneuver the ship.

The Performance Condition for the skill entitled, "Plan and conduct a passage and determine position" is: On a ship or in a navigational laboratory, given notices to mariners and uncorrected charts and publications.

The Performance Behavior for the same skill is: The candidate will correct five charts and three publications, including the *Light List* or the *List of Lights*.

The Performance Standards for the same skill are: Charts and publications needing correction are identified; Corrections are correctly made to the affected charts and publications; and All corrections to charts are recorded on the chart, and in the chart-correction record or on the chart-correction spreadsheet, and all corrections to publications are recorded on the correction page of the publication and on either the publication-correction card or the publication-correction spreadsheet.

If the mariner properly meets all of the Performance Standards, he or she passes the practical demonstration. If he or she fails to properly carry out any of the Performance Standards, he or she fails it.

Why Is the Coast Guard Taking This Action?

The Coast Guard is taking this action to comply with STCW, as amended in 1995 and incorporated into domestic law at 46 CFR Parts 10, 12, and 15 in 1997. Guidance from the International Maritime Organization on shipboard assessments of proficiency suggests that Parties develop standards and measures of performance for practical tests as part of their programs for training and assessing seafarers.

How May I Participate in This Action?

You may participate in this action by submitting comments and related material on the national performance measures proposed here. (Although the Coast Guard does not seek public comment on the measures recommended by MERPAC, as distinct from the measures proposed here, those measures are available on the Internet at