

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 submission of responses.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.
Agency: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
Title: Benzene.
OMB Number: 1218-0129.
Frequency: On occasion.

Type of Response: Recordkeeping and third party disclosure.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Federal government; and State, local or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 13,498.

Information collection requirement	Annual responses	Average response time (hours)	Annual burden hours
Exposure Monitoring:			
Initial, Periodic, and Additional Monitoring	0	0.00	0
Initial Exposure-Monitoring Results	0	0.00	0
Periodic Exposure-Monitoring Results	20,247	0.08	1,620
Additional Exposure-Monitoring Results	1,350	0.08	108
Written Compliance Plan	6,749	0.50	3,375
Respiratory Protection (Fit Testing)	0	0.00	0
Medical Surveillance:			
Medical Examinations:			
Initial Medical Examinations	10,800	2.00	21,600
Periodic Examinations	41,647	2.00	83,294
Additional Examinations and Referrals	109	4.00	436
Information Provided to Physician	52,556	0.08	4,204
Provide Physician's Written Opinion to employee	52,556	0.08	4,204
Communication of Benzene Hazards:			
Signs and Labels	0	0.00	0
Material Safety Data Sheets	0	0.00	0
Employee Information and Training	0	0.00	0
Record keeping:			
Exposure Monitoring Results:			
Periodic Monitoring Records	20,247	0.08	1,620
Additional Monitoring Records	1,350	0.08	108
Medical Records	52,556	0.08	4,204
Records Availability	5,256	0.08	420
Federal Access	4	0.08	1
Records Transfer	3	1.00	3
Totals	265,428	125,197

Total Annualized capital/startup: \$0.

Total annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): \$8,179,958.

Description: OSHA is proposing to extend the information-collection requirements specified in the Benzene Standard (29 CFR 1910.1028). The information-collection requirements specified in the Benzene Standard protect employees from the adverse health effects that may result from occupational exposure to benzene. The major information-collection requirements in the Standard include conducting employee exposure monitoring, notifying employees of their benzene exposures, implementing a written compliance program, implementing medical surveillance of employees, providing examining physicians with specific information, ensuring that employees receive a copy of their medical-surveillance results, maintaining employees' exposure-monitoring and medical-surveillance records for specific periods, and providing access to these records by OSHA, the National Institute for

Occupational Safety and Health, the employee who is the subject of the records, the employee's representative, and other designated parties.

Ira L. Mills,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Labor Research Advisory Council; Reestablishment

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and after consultation with General Services Administration, I have determined that reestablishment of the Labor Research Advisory Council is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of Labor.

The Council will advise the Commissioner of Labor Statistics regarding the statistical and analytical work of the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

providing perspectives on these programs in relation to the needs of the labor unions and their members.

Council membership and participation in the Council and its subcommittees are broadly representative of union organizations of all sizes of membership, with national coverage that reflects the geographical, industrial, and occupational sectors of the economy.

The Council will function solely as an advisory body and in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Charter will be filed with the Library of Congress and the appropriate congressional committees.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding reestablishment of the Labor Research Advisory Council. Such comments should be addressed to: Deborah P. Klein, Associate Commissioner, Office of Publications and Special Studies, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE.,

Washington, DC, 20212, telephone: 202-691-5900.

Signed in Washington, DC this 23rd day of May, 2003.

Elaine L. Chao,

Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 03-13800 Filed 6-2-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration

[Application Number D-10659]

Proposed Class Exemption for Acquisition and Sale of REIT Shares by Individual Account Plans Sponsored by Trust REITs

AGENCY: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of proposed class exemption.

SUMMARY: This document contains a notice of a proposed class exemption from certain prohibited transaction restrictions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA or the Act) and from certain taxes imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code). If granted, the proposed exemption would permit the acquisition, holding or sale of publicly traded shares of beneficial interest in a real estate investment trust (REIT), that is structured under state law as a business trust (Trust REIT), by individual account plans sponsored by the REIT or its affiliates. The proposed exemption, if granted, would affect participants and beneficiaries of employee benefit plans involved in such transactions, as well as the REITs and their affiliates that sponsor such plans.

DATES: Written comments and requests for a public hearing shall be submitted to the Department before August 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All written comments and requests for a public hearing (preferably 3 copies) should be sent to: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Room N-5649, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, Attention: REIT Class Exemption Proposal. Comments may be sent by fax to (202) 219-0204 or by e-mail to moffittb@ebsa.dol.gov. The application for exemption (Application Number D-10659), as well as all comments received, will be available for public inspection in the Public Documents Room, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-1513,

200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrea W. Selvaggio, Office of Exemption Determinations, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington DC 20210 (202) 693-8540 (not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document contains a notice that the Department is proposing a class exemption from the restrictions of sections 406(a), 406(b)(1) and (b)(2), and 407(a) of the Act and from the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (E) of the Code. Relief for the transactions was requested in an application (Application No. D-10659) submitted by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT or the Applicant) pursuant to section 408(a) of the Act and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code, and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 29 CFR part 2570, subpart B (55 FR 32836, August 10, 1990).¹ Pursuant to its authority, the Department is proposing additional conditions with respect to the relief requested by the Applicant.

Executive Order 12866 Statement

Under Executive Order 12866, the Department must determine whether the regulatory action is "significant" and therefore subject to the requirements of the Executive Order and subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under section 3(f), the order defines a "significant regulatory action" as an action that is likely to result in a rule (1) having an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely and materially affecting a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local or tribal governments or communities (also referred to as "economically significant"); (2) creating serious inconsistency or otherwise interfering with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) materially altering the budgetary impacts of entitlement grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or (4) raising novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the

President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

This proposed class exemption has been drafted and reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866, section 1(b), Principles of Regulation. The Department has determined that this proposed amendment is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866, section 3(f).

Accordingly, it does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that order.

Paperwork Reduction Act

As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Department of Labor conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This 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, EBSA is soliciting comments concerning the information collection request (ICR) included in this Notice of a Proposed Class Exemption for Acquisition and Sale of REIT Shares by Individual Account Plans Sponsored by Trust REITs (referred to for the purpose of the ICR as Disclosures for Transactions with Trust REIT Shares). A copy of the ICR may be obtained by contacting Joseph S. Piacentini, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-5618, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone (202) 693-8410; Fax: (202) 219-4745. These are not toll-free numbers.

Comments should be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Attention: Desk Officer for the Employee Benefits Security Administration. Although comments may be submitted through August 4, 2003 OMB requests that comments be received within 30 days of publication of the Notice of Proposed Exemption to ensure their consideration.

The Department has submitted a copy of the Notice of Proposed Exemption to OMB in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 3507(d) for review of its information

¹ Section 102 of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1978, 5 U.S.C. App. 1 (1996) generally transferred the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue exemptions under section 4975(c)(2) of the Code to the Secretary of Labor. For purposes of this exemption, references to specific provisions of Title I of the Act, unless otherwise specified, refer also to the corresponding provisions of the Code.