

In support of UPS's request for exemption from the requirement to register each training location separately, the company cites the uniformity of its driver instructor training and the fact that "a common FMCSR-compliant curriculum has been developed at the corporate level." On that basis, UPS concludes that the objectives of location-specific registration would be satisfied by a single UPS registration.

VI. FMCSA Response and Decision

FMCSA has evaluated the UPS application and the public comments submitted and hereby denies the requested exemptions. The UPS application does not provide an analysis of the safety impacts the requested exemptions from the ELDT regulations may cause, as required by 49 CFR 381.310(c)(4), and does not explain how the exemptions would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by complying with the current regulations, as required by 49 CFR 381.310(c)(5).

The requirement that a driver training instructor hold a CDL, and have either two years' experience driving a CMV of the same or higher class, or two years' experience as a BTW CMV instructor, is necessary to establish a sufficient minimum qualification standard for BTW instructors. In the Agency's judgment, the rigorous instructor training provided by UPS, while laudable, is not a substitute for CMV driving experience. UPS therefore fails to provide an alternative to the instructor requirements likely to ensure an equivalent level of safety, and the request for exemption is hereby denied.

The Agency also denies UPS's request for an exemption from the requirement, as set forth in 49 CFR 380.703(a)(7), that training providers with more than one campus or training location must electronically register each training location to receive a unique TPR number applicable to that location. Qualified training providers are a cornerstone of meaningful ELDT. FMCSA's ability to readily identify the separate physical locations at which ELDT occurs is a reasonable prerequisite to effective oversight of UPS's training operations. The Agency needs to know the training location where an individual received ELDT, for example, so that if State-administered skills or knowledge test pass/fail rates appear to be outside the norm for drivers trained at a specific location, FMCSA can follow-up appropriately. In addition, UPS did not explain how a single UPS representative can be directly

responsible for managing and administering ELDT at all 1,800 locations. It is reasonable to require that the individual actually administering the ELDT program at a given location attest, under penalty of perjury, to compliance with specific training requirements. Further, UPS does not indicate whether the same type of ELDT is conducted at each of its 1,800 locations—e.g., do some locations offer only BTW training or only knowledge training? Is specialized knowledge training, such as on hazardous materials, offered at every UPS training location? The types of ELDT offered at each training location is "key information" as defined in 380.719(a)(3)(i), and is necessary for effective regulatory oversight. For example, the extent of training offered at a specific location may impact how FMCSA allocates its audit or investigation resources. UPS's application does not explain how dispensing with the location-specific TPR registration requirement would likely achieve an equivalent level of safety. Therefore, the UPS request for exemption from the TPR registration requirement is hereby denied.

Issued on: November 26, 2019.

Jim Mullen,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2019-26183 Filed 12-6-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Environmental Hazards Registry (EHR) Worksheet (VA Form 10-10176)

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden, and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 8, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through www.Regulations.gov, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer; 725 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20503 or sent through electronic mail to oira_submission@omb.eop.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Danny S. Green, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk (OQPR), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 421-1354 or email danny.green2@va.gov Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501-21.

Title: Environmental Hazards Registry (EHR) Worksheet (VA Form 10-10176)

OMB Control Number: 2900-NEW.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: Legal authority for this data collection is found under the following Congressional mandates that authorize the collection of data that will allow measurement and evaluation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Programs, the goal of which is improved health care for Veterans.

- *Agent Orange Registry:* Public Laws 102-4, 102-585 Section 703, 100-687 and 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 527, 38 U.S.C. 1116.

- *Gulf War Registry:* Public Laws 102-585, 103-446 and 38 U.S.C. 1117.

- *Ionizing Radiation:* Public Laws 102-585 Section 703, 100-687 and 38 U.S.C. 527, 38 U.S.C. 1116.

The new Environmental Health Registry (EHR) Worksheet, VA Form 10-10176, supersedes VA Form 10-9009 (June 2005), VA Form 10-9009A (March 2010) and VA Form 10-0020A (June 2005). Post Deployment Health Services (PDHS) plans to have this form electronically accessible to Environmental Health Coordinators and Clinicians once the EHR is in place. Until then, PDHS requests to consolidate 3 existing forms into one comprehensive form.

Currently, VA is exploring the performance of limited registry examinations via telemedicine, in order to reduce Veterans' need to travel and potentially reduce waiting times for exams. The form information would be the same, and otherwise the process to collect and put data into the registry database will not change. Once the exam template is available, it can be used to import information more seamlessly into the Veteran patient record.

VA Environmental Health Registry evaluations are free, voluntary medical assessments for Veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. Evaluations alert Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to exposure specific to environmental hazards during their military service. The registry data may help VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively and may be useful for research purposes.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 84 FR 42993 on August 19, 2019, page 42993.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 20,000.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 60 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Danny S. Green,

Interim VA Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk (OQPR), Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2019-26419 Filed 12-6-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0568]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Submission of School Catalog to the State Approving Agency

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 8, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through www.Regulations.gov, or to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer; 725 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20503 or sent through electronic mail to oira_submission@omb.eop.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0568” in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Danny S. Green at (202) 421-1354.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Title 38 CFR, sections 21.4253 and 21.4254, restates this statutory requirement in the Code of Federal Regulations, and Title 38 U.S.C. 3676.

Title: Submission of School Catalog to the State Approving Agency (VA Form = No Form).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0568.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: State approving agencies and VA use the catalogs to determine what courses can be approved for VA training. VA receives catalogs when institutions change their education programs. In general, the catalogs are collected approximately once a year. Without this information, VA and the State approving agencies cannot determine what courses could be approved.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 2,582 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Actual Number of Respondents: 10,330.

By direction of the Secretary.

Danny S. Green,

VA Interim Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2019-26391 Filed 12-6-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Annual Pay Ranges for Physicians, Dentists, and Podiatrists of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: VA is hereby giving notice of annual pay ranges, which is the sum of

the base pay rate and market pay for VHA physicians, dentists, and podiatrists as prescribed by the Secretary for Department-wide applicability. These annual pay ranges are intended to enhance the flexibility of the Department to recruit, develop, and retain the most highly qualified providers to serve our Nation's Veterans and maintain a standard of excellence in the VA health care system.

DATES: Annual pay ranges are applicable February 16, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leah Brady, HR Specialist, Human Resources Center of Expertise, VHA Workforce Management and Consulting Office (10A2A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (631) 514-9622. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(A), not less often than once every 2 years, the Secretary must prescribe for Department-wide applicability the minimum and maximum amounts of annual pay that may be paid to VHA physicians, dentists, and podiatrists. 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(B) allows the Secretary to prescribe separate minimum and maximum amounts of annual pay for a specialty or assignment. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(C), amounts prescribed under paragraph 7431(e) shall be published in the **Federal Register** and shall not take effect until at least 60 days after date of publication.

In addition, under 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(4), the total amount of compensation paid to a physician, dentist, or podiatrist under title 38 of the United States Code cannot exceed, in any year, the amount of annual compensation (excluding expenses) of the President. For the purposes of subparagraph 7431(e)(4), “the total amount of compensation” includes base pay, market pay, performance pay, recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives, incentive awards for performance and special contributions, and fee basis earnings.

Background

The “Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2004” (Public Law (Pub. L.) 108-445) was signed by the President on December 3, 2004. The major provisions of the law established a new pay system for VHA physicians and dentists consisting of base pay, market pay, and performance pay. While the base pay component is set by statute, market pay is intended to reflect the recruitment and retention needs for the specialty or assignment of a particular physician or