III. New Categorical Exclusions FRA Is Considering

Since updating its CE list in 2013, FRA has identified the following two classes of actions that may be appropriate for categorical exclusion:

- Localized geotechnical and other investigations to provide information for preliminary design and for environmental analyses and permitting purposes; and
- Refinancing assistance where the project sponsor has already completed project-related construction activities.

FRA seeks input from interested parties, stakeholders, and the public on additional categories of activities appropriate for a CE that FRA should consider. FRA also seeks comment on the two CEs listed above.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 26, 2016.

Sarah E. Feinberg,
Administrator.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Maritime Administration

[Docket No. DOT–MARAD–2016–0057]

Agency Requests for Renewal of a Previously Approved Information Collection(s): Voluntary Tanker Agreement

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. This collection of information is used to gather information on tanker operators who agree to contribute, either by direct charter to the Department of Defense or to other participants tanker capacity as requested by the Maritime Administrator at such times and such amounts as determined to be necessary to meet the essential needs of DOD for the transportation of petroleum and petroleum products in bulk by sea. The Voluntary Tanker Agreement is a voluntary emergency preparedness agreement in accordance with Section 708, Defense Production Act, 195, as amended (30 U.S.C. App. 2158). We are required to publish this notice in the Federal Register by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 1, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket No. DOT–MARAD–2016–0057 through one of the following methods:

- Mail or Hand Delivery: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
OMB Control Number: 2133–0505. Title: Voluntary Tanker Agreement. Form Numbers: MA–1060. Type of Review: Renewal of an information collection. Background: The collection consists of a request from the Maritime Administration (MARAD) that each participant in the Voluntary Tanker Agreement submit a list of the names of ships owned, chartered or contracted for
by the participant, their size and flags of registry and other pertinent information. There is a recommended format for this information included as part of the application. The collection of information is necessary to evaluate tanker capability and make plans for use of this capability to meet national emergency requirements. This information will be used by both MARAD and Department of Defense to establish overall contingency plans.

Respondents: Tanker companies that operate in international trade and who have agreed to participate in this agreement.

Number of Respondents: 15.
Frequency: Annually.
Number of Responses: 15 (1 per respondent).

Total Annual Burden: 15.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Department’s performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for the Department to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB’s clearance of this information collection.


T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,
Secretary, Maritime Administration.
[FR Doc. 2016–12974 Filed 6–1–16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
[Docket No. DOT–MARAD–2016–0055]

Agency Requests for Renewal of a Previously Approved Information Collection(s): Generic Clearance of Customer Satisfaction Surveys

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Executive Order 12862 directs Federal agencies to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector. In order to work continuously to ensure that our programs are effective and meet our customers’ needs, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) seeks to obtain OMB approval of previously approved generic clearance to collect feedback on our service delivery. By feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 1, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments [identified by Docket No. DOT–MARAD–2016–0055] through one of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
• Fax: 1–202–493–2251.
• Mail or Hand Delivery: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.


SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 2133–0546.
Title: Generic Clearance of Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

Type of Review: Renewal of an information collection.

Background: Executive Order 12862 “Setting Customer Service Standards,” directs Federal agencies to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector (58 FR 48257, Sept. 11, 1993). In order to work continuously to ensure that our programs are effective and meet our customers’ needs, MARAD seeks to obtain OMB approval of a previously approved generic clearance to collect qualitative feedback from our customers on our service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will be ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: Timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Agency’s services will be unavailable.

The Agency will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

• The collections are voluntary;
• The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
• The collections are noncontroversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
• Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
• Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;
• Information gathered is intended to be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the agency (if released, the agency must indicate the qualitative nature of the information);
• Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and
• Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance provides useful information, but it does not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that
