

Dated: December 24, 2009.

Karen V. Gregory,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-30962 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Charges For Certain Disclosures

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice Regarding Charges for Certain Disclosures.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission announces that the ceiling on allowable charges under Section 612(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA") will decrease from \$11.00 to \$10.50 effective January 1, 2010. Under 1996 amendments to the FCRA, the Federal Trade Commission is required to increase the \$8.00 amount referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) of Section 612(f) on January 1 of each year, based proportionally on changes in the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"), with fractional changes rounded to the nearest fifty cents. The CPI increased 33.98 percent between September 1997, the date the FCRA amendments took effect, and September 2009. This increase in the CPI, and the requirement that any increase be rounded to the nearest fifty cents, results in a maximum allowable charge of \$10.50 effective January 1, 2010.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clarke W. Brinckerhoff, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 202-326-3208, or Keith B. Anderson, Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, 202-326-3428.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 612(f)(1)(A) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, which became effective in 1997, provides that a consumer reporting agency may charge a consumer a reasonable amount for making a disclosure to the consumer pursuant to Section 609 of the Act.¹ The law states that, where a consumer reporting agency is permitted to impose a reasonable charge on a consumer for making a disclosure to the consumer pursuant to Section 609, the charge shall not exceed \$8.00 and shall be indicated to the

consumer before making the disclosure. Section 612(f)(2) states that the Federal Trade Commission ("the Commission") shall increase the \$8.00 maximum amount on January 1 of each year, based proportionally on changes in the Consumer Price Index, with fractional changes rounded to the nearest fifty cents.

Section 211(a)(2) of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 ("FACT Act") added a new Section 612(a) to the FCRA that gives consumers the right to request free annual disclosures once every 12 months. The maximum allowable charge established by this Notice does not apply to requests made under that provision. The charge does apply when a consumer who orders a file disclosure has already received a free annual disclosure and does not otherwise qualify for an additional free disclosure.

The Commission considers the \$8.00 amount referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) of Section 612(f) to be the baseline for the effective ceiling on reasonable charges dating from the effective date of the amended FCRA, *i.e.*, September 30, 1997. Each year the Commission calculates the proportional increase in the Consumer Price Index (using the most general CPI, which is for all urban consumers, all items) from September 1997 to September of the current year. The Commission then determines what modification, if any, from the original base of \$8.00 should be made effective on January 1 of the subsequent year, given the requirement that fractional changes be rounded to the nearest fifty cents.

Between September 1997 and September 2009, the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and all items increased by 33.98 percent – from an index value of 161.2 in September 1997 to a value of 215.969 in September 2009. An increase of 33.98 percent in the \$8.00 base figure would lead to a new figure of \$10.72. However, because the statute directs that the resulting figure be rounded to the nearest \$0.50, the maximum allowable charge should be \$10.50.

The Commission therefore determines that the maximum allowable charge for the year 2010 will be \$10.50.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark

Secretary

[FR Doc. E9-30982 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Decision To Evaluate a Petition To Designate a Class of Employees for the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA, To Be Included in the Special Exposure Cohort

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HHS gives notice as required by 42 CFR 83.12(e) of a decision to evaluate a petition to designate a class of employees for the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. The initial proposed definition for the class being evaluated, subject to revision as warranted by the evaluation, is as follows:

Facility: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Location: Berkeley, California.

Job Titles and/or Job Duties: All employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors and subcontractors.

Period of Employment: August 13, 1942 through December 31, 1961.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stuart L. Hinnefeld, Interim Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513-533-6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to OCAS@CDC.GOV.

John Howard,

Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Decision To Evaluate a Petition To Designate a Class of Employees for the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Bloomfield, NJ, To Be Included in the Special Exposure Cohort

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

¹This provision, originally Section 612(a), was added to the FCRA in September 1996 and became effective in September 1997. It was relabeled Section 612(f) by Section 211(a)(1) of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 ("FACT Act"), Public Law 108-159, which was signed into law on December 4, 2003.