

ACTION: 60-day Notice of Submission of Information Collection for Approval from Office of Management and Budget.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) is seeking public comments concerning the information collection known as "Advances to Housing Associates," which has been assigned control number 2590-0001 by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Pending OMB approval of an emergency extension request, a regular clearance request for OMB review and approval of a three-year extension of the control number is also beginning. OMB approval has been requested by December 31, 2008, the date of expiration.

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on or before February 27, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to the FHFA using any one of the following methods:

E-mail: RegComments@fhfa.gov.

Fax: (202) 408-2580.

Mail/Hand Delivery: Federal Housing Finance Agency, Fourth Floor, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington DC 20552, ATTENTION: Public Comments/Proposed Collection; Comment Request: Advances to Housing Associates.

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. If you submit your comment to the Federal eRulemaking Portal, please also send it by e-mail to the FHFA at regcomments@fhfa.gov to ensure timely receipt by the agency. Include the following information in the subject line of your submission: Federal Housing Finance Agency. Proposed Collection; Comment Request: Advances to Housing Associates.

We will post all public comments we receive without change, including any personal information you provide, such as your name and address, on the FHFA Web site at <http://www.fhfa.gov/Default.aspx?Page=89>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan F. Curtis, Senior Financial Analyst, by e-mail at jonathan.curtis@fhfa.gov, by telephone at (202) 408-2866, or by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, 1625 Eye Street, NW., Washington DC 20006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Need for and Use of the Information Collection

Section 10b of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) (12 U.S.C. 1430b) authorizes the Federal Home Loan Banks (Banks) to make advances under certain circumstances to certified nonmember mortgagees. The FHFA refers to nonmember mortgagees as housing associates. In order to be certified as a housing associate, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in section 10b of the Bank Act. Part 926 of the former Federal Housing Finance Board regulations¹ (12 CFR part 926) implements the statutory eligibility requirements and establishes uniform review criteria an applicant must meet in order to be certified as a housing associate by a Bank. More specifically, §§ 926.3 and 926.4 (12 CFR 926.3-926.4) implement the statutory eligibility requirements and provide guidance to an applicant on how it may satisfy such requirements. Section 926.5 (12 CFR 926.5) authorizes the Banks to approve or deny all applications for certification as a housing associate, subject to the statutory and regulatory requirements. Section 926.6 (12 CFR 926.6) permits an applicant to appeal a Bank decision to deny certification to the FHFA.

Section 950.17 of the former Finance Board regulations (12 CFR 950.17) establishes the terms and conditions under which a Bank may make advances to a certified housing associate. Section 950.17 also imposes a continuing obligation on a housing associate to provide information necessary to determine if it remains in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

The information collection contained in 12 CFR 926.1 through 926.6 and 950.17 is necessary to enable the Banks to determine whether an applicant satisfies the statutory and regulatory requirements to be certified initially and maintain its status as a housing associate eligible to receive Bank

¹ Effective July 30, 2008, Division A of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289, 122 Stat. 2654 (2008), titled the Federal Housing Finance Regulatory Reform Act of 2008 (Reform Act), created the FHFA as an independent agency of the federal government. The Reform Act transferred supervisory and oversight responsibilities over Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Banks, and the Bank's Office of Finance from the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) and the Federal Housing Finance Board to the FHFA. Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Banks continue to operate under rules, regulations, orders, resolutions, and determinations promulgated by OFHEO and the Finance Board until they are modified, terminated, set aside, or superseded by the FHFA. See Pub. L. 110-289, 122 Stat. 2795 and 2798 (*codified at* 12 U.S.C. 4511 note).

advances. The FHFA requires and uses the information collection to determine whether to uphold or overrule a Bank decision to deny housing associate certification to an applicant.

The OMB control number for the information collection, which expires on December 31, 2008, is 2590-0001. The likely respondents include applicants for housing associate certification and current housing associates.

B. Burden Estimate

The FHFA estimates the total annual average number of applicants at one, with one response per applicant. The estimate for the average hours per application is 10 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for applicants is 10 hours (1 applicant × 1 response per applicant × 10 hours).

The Finance Board estimates the total annual average number of maintenance respondents, that is, certified housing associates, at 64, with 1 response per housing associate. The estimate for the average hours per maintenance response is 0.5 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for certified housing associates is 32 hours (64 certified housing associates × 1 response per associate × 0.5 hours).

The estimate for the total annual hour burden is 42 hours (64 housing associates × 1 response per associate × 0.5 hours + 1 applicant × 1 response per applicant × 10 hours).

C. Comment Request

The FHFA requests written comments on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FHFA functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the FHFA estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on applicants and housing associates, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: December 19, 2008.

James B. Lockhart,

Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency.

[FR Doc. E8-30814 Filed 12-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8070-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreement Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreement

under the Shipping Act of 1984. Interested parties may submit comments on agreements to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within ten days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**. Copies of agreements are available through the Commission's Web site (<http://www.fmc.gov>) or contacting the Office of Agreements at (202) 523-5793 or tradeanalysis@fmc.gov.

Agreement No.: 011223-043.

Title: Transpacific Stabilization Agreement.

Parties: American President Lines, Ltd. and APL Co. PTE Ltd.; (operating as a single carrier); China Shipping Container Lines (Hong Kong) Company Limited and China Shipping Container Lines Company Limited (operating as a single carrier); CMA CGM, S.A.; COSCO Container Lines Company Ltd; Evergreen Line Joint Service Agreement; Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd.; Hapag-Lloyd AG; Hyundai Merchant Marine Co., Ltd.; Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd.; Mediterranean Shipping Company; Nippon Yusen Kaisha; Orient Overseas Container Line Limited; Yangming Marine Transport Corp.; and Zim Integrated Shipping Services, Ltd.

Filing Party: David F. Smith, Esq.; Sher & Blackwell, LLP; 1850 M Street, NW., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036.

Synopsis: The amendment would provide authority for the members to discuss cost savings and more efficient use of vessel and equipment assets and networks.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Karen V. Gregory,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-30791 Filed 12-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Privacy Act of 1974; Notice of Adoption of Altered and New Systems of Records

December 22, 2008.

Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Federal Maritime Commission published two documents in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 2008. The first was a Notice of Republication and Altered Systems of Records (73 FR 37959) which proposed amendments to the various existing Systems of Records (SOR) of the Federal Maritime Commission and republished the complete SOR including the proposed amendments. The second was a Notice of Proposed New Systems of Records (73 FR 37956) which proposed the

establishment of five additional systems to the Commission's SOR.

Interested parties were afforded the opportunity to submit comments with respect to these notices. No comments were received by the Commission.

Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Federal Maritime Commission has adopted the proposed amendments to its SOR as well as the five additional systems to its SOR without change, effective August 11, 2008.

By the Commission.

Karen V. Gregory,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-30792 Filed 12-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-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 increase from \$10.50 to \$11.00 effective January 1, 2009. 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 35.72 percent between September 1997, the date the FCRA amendments took effect, and September 2008. This increase in the CPI and the requirement that any increase be rounded to the nearest fifty cents results in an increase in the maximum allowable charge to \$11.00 effective January 1, 2009.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 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 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 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 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 2008, the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and all items increased by 35.72 percent—from an index value of 161.2 in September 1997 to a value of 218.798 in September 2008. An increase of 35.72 percent in the \$8.00 base figure would lead to a new figure of \$10.86. However, because the statute directs that the resulting figure be rounded to the nearest \$0.50, the maximum allowable charge should be \$11.00.

¹ This 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.