

pressure excursions on any desiccated PSDI-5 inflator, and that “[t]he maximum primary chamber pressure that Takata measured” in covered Ford inflators was about 15 MPa lower than that measured in a covered Nissan inflator (which exhibited primary chamber pressure exceeding 60 MPa). *Id.* at 14.

Second, and relatedly, Ford contends “[t]here are design differences” in the covered Ford inflators when compared to the covered Nissan inflators, and that such differences may explain differences observed between the two inflator variants during testing. *Id.* In short, Ford cites its inflator variant as having “fewer potential moisture sources” because the inflators contain only two, foil-wrapped auto-ignition tablets (instead of three that are not foil-wrapped), contain divider disk foil tape, and utilize certain EPDM generate cushion material (instead of ceramic) that “reduces generate movement over time, maintains generate integrity, and leads to consistent and predictable burn rates.” *Id.* at 15–16 (providing table).

The remainder of Ford’s Petition explains its “commit[ment] to further investigation of PSDI-5 airbag inflators.” *See id.* at 16–18. Because of this stated concern, including about data pertaining to the covered Nissan inflators, “Ford is expanding the scope of the sampling and is involving leading industry experts to assess any potential risks from desiccated PSDI-5 inflators in Ford products.” *Id.* at 16. Ford outlines a two-pronged plan for this expansion. First, Ford describes a parts-acquisition program “to gather approximately 6,000 desiccated PSDI-5 driver airbag inflators” from certain model year vehicles in areas with high absolute humidity for what appears to be all vehicle lines in which the covered inflators were originally installed.<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 17. And second, Ford describes a continuation of inflator testing and engineering analysis, which will engage third-party experts for independent assessments. *Id.* at 17–18. The testing will include various engineering analyses (comparisons of design within the PSDI-5 family, statistical assessments, and ballistic modeling), inflator testing (CT scanning and inflator disassembly), and propellant testing (moisture content, closed-bomb burn rate, X-ray micro-computer tomography, thermogravimetric/

differential scanning calorimetry analysis). *Id.*

#### IV. Request for Deferral of Determination

Ford has requested that NHTSA allow it additional time before deciding on its Petition—specifically, until March 31, 2018—so that it may “complete its intensified and expanded inflator field study, aging assessment, and testing on additional samples and vehicle types to evaluate the performance of the Takata desiccated PSDI-5 driver airbag inflators.” *Id.* at 19. In making this request, Ford appears to acknowledge the available data may not yet be sufficient for the Agency to grant its Petition. Indeed, Ford notes that while its results to date are “good news for the safety” of users of one of its six affected vehicle models—the Ranger—“the results on the Nissan design inflators are of concern.” *Id.*

The Agency recognizes Ford’s plans to expand its investigation and to secure a supply of remedy inflators for affected vehicles if it becomes needed. *See id.* at 3, 10. However, 49 CFR 556.4(b)(5) provides that an inconsequentiality petition must set forth all data, views, and arguments supporting that petition, and Ford does not adequately justify why this provision does not preclude deferral here.

Specifically, NHTSA does not find Ford’s request for deferral reasonable under the circumstances or supported by the testing and data it has collected to date. Indeed, Ford does not provide an explanation for why it has not already undertaken the expansive investigation it now proposes, and Ford’s past efforts to evaluate the safety of the covered inflators do not support granting a deferral. NHTSA requested Ford’s assistance in evaluating Takata calcium-sulfate desiccated PSDI-5 driver-side airbag inflators in February 2016, and over seventeen months later only about 400 covered Ford inflators have been tested. Further, while the covered Ford inflators were original equipment in six vehicle models (Ranger, Fusion, MKZ, Milan, Edge, and MKX), all approximately 400 inflators harvested in Ford’s field-recovery program were from the same vehicle model (the Ranger). Moreover, the number of inflators tested under Ford’s program was less than half the number tested under Nissan’s program, and about *seven percent* of the approximately 6,000 inflators Ford now proposes to test in only about *seven months*.

It is difficult to reconcile Ford’s ambitious plan with its prior approach toward evaluating the safety of the

covered inflators. Ford has provided no compelling argument for the Agency to deviate from 49 CFR 556.4(b)(5).

For these reasons, NHTSA denies Ford’s request for a deferral of the NHTSA’s decision on Ford’s Petition. The Agency will decide on Ford’s Petition without consideration of Ford’s planned additional efforts as outlined in its Petition. Nevertheless, NHTSA recognizes Ford’s plans to further evaluate the safety of Takata calcium-sulfate desiccated PSDI-5 driver-side airbag inflators, and encourages Ford to move forward with those plans as described in its Petition—particularly given the concern about these inflators that Ford has expressed.

Accordingly, NHTSA hereby gives notice of its receipt of Ford’s Petition for a Determination of Inconsequentiality and Request for Deferral of Determination Regarding Certain Ford Vehicles Equipped with Takata PSDI-5 Desiccated Driver Airbag Inflators. And it is hereby *Ordered* that:

1. The period for public comment on Ford’s Petition shall run from the publication of this decision through December 18, 2017; and

2. Ford’s request for a deferral of NHTSA’s decision on Ford’s Petition, so that Ford may complete its intensified and expanded inflator field study, aging assessment, and testing on additional samples and vehicle types, is *Denied*.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 30101, *et seq.*, 30118, 30120(h), 30162, 30166(b)(1), 30166(g)(1); delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.95(a); 49 CFR parts 556, 573, 577.

Issued: November 9, 2017.

**Stephen P. Wood,**  
*Acting Chief Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2017–24829 Filed 11–15–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–59–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[OST Docket No. DOT–OST–2010–0140]

### Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended, this notice announces the Department of Transportation’s (Department) intention to reinstate an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number for the collection and posting of certain aviation

<sup>6</sup>Ford’s Petition explicitly lists six vehicle lines, comprising all affected Ford models except for the Fusion. *See* Petition at 17. However, one of the six vehicle lines is simply listed as “2006–2007 MY Ford.” Presumably, this refers to certain MY Ford Fusions.

consumer protection-related information from U.S. carriers and foreign carriers. On April 25, 2011, the DOT issued a final rule that, among other things, extended existing consumer protection requirements that previously applied only to U.S. carriers to foreign carriers and required that certain U.S. and foreign air carriers report tarmac delay information to the DOT for passenger operations that experience a tarmac delay time of 3 hours or more at a U.S. airport (See, DOT-OST-2010-0140). This request seeks to reinstate the control number that is associated with the information collection requirements in that rule, OMB Control Number 2105-0561.

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice also announces that the request for reinstatement of an OMB Control Number for the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below is being forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comments. A **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following information collection was published on May 22, 2017 (82 FR 97 at 23486).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 18, 2017.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503. Comments may also be sent via email to OMB at the following address: [oir\\_submissions@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submissions@omb.eop.gov).

To ensure that you do not duplicate your docket submissions, please submit them by only one of the following means:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- **Mail:** Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W-12/140, Washington, DC 20590-0001;

- **Hand delivery:** West Building Ground Floor, Room W-12/140, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Daeleen Chesley, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Assistant General Counsel

for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings (C-70), Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20590, 202-366-9342 (voice) 202-366-7152 (fax) or [Daeleen.Chesley@dot.gov](mailto:Daeleen.Chesley@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Submission of Miscellaneous Information Collection Systems as Required by the Department's Rules to Enhance Airline Passenger Protections.

**OMB Control Number:** 2105-0561.

On April 25, 2011, the Department issued a rule to enhance airline passenger protections that, among other things, extended to foreign carriers the requirement to post tarmac delay plans, customer service plans, and contracts of carriage on their Web sites. This requirement had previously only applied to U.S. carriers. Airlines are also required to adopt a Customer Service Plan, audit adherence to the plan annually, and retain the results for two years. In addition, a prior rule issued on December 30, 2009, required that each reporting air carrier (*i.e.*, currently U.S. carriers that account for at least 1 percent of domestic scheduled passenger revenues) display on its Web site information on each listed flights' on-time performance for the previous month for both the carrier's flights and those of its non-reporting code-share carriers. The rules also require that U.S. air carriers that operate passenger service and foreign air carriers that operate scheduled passenger service to or from the U.S. retain for two years certain information about any ground delay that lasts at least three hours.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.5, 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.12. On May 22, 2017, OST published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on ICRs for which the agency was seeking OMB approval (82 FR 97 at 23486). OST received one comment after issuing this notice. The commenter, Airport Council International (ACI) strongly supported the renewal of this control number. Accordingly, the Department announces that these information collection activities have been re-evaluated and certified under 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and forwarded to OMB for review and approval pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.12(c).

Before OMB decides whether to approve these proposed collections of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b); 5

CFR 1320.12(d). Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)-(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); *see also* 60 FR 44978, 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). The 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments to OMB and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure their full consideration. 5 CFR 1320.12(c); *see also* 60 FR 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995).

This notice addresses five information collection requirements concerning information collection requirements set forth in the Department's airline passenger protection rules. The reinstated OMB control number will be applicable to all information collection systems set forth in this notice. For each of these information collections, the title, a description of the respondents, and an estimate of the annual recordkeeping and periodic reporting burden (rounded to the nearest hour) are set forth below:

1. Requirement to post customer service plans and contracts of carriage on a carrier's Web site. (259.2 and 259.6).

**Title:** Posting of Customer Service Plan and Contract of Carriage on Web site.

**Respondents:** U.S. carriers that operate scheduled passenger or public charter service and foreign air carriers operating scheduled passenger or public charter service to or from the United States, using any aircraft with a designed seating capacity of 30 or more seats. Applicable to U.S. carriers that have a Web site and foreign carriers that have a Web site marketed toward U.S. consumers.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 45 U.S. airlines and 65 foreign carriers.

**Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:** 15 minutes per year for each U.S. carrier and foreign carrier. The estimate was calculated by multiplying the estimated time (15 min) to post an updated copy of the carrier's customer service and/or contract of carriage on its Web site per year (if changes are made) by the number of updates per carrier in each year (1) for U.S. and foreign carriers.

**Estimated Total Burden on Respondents:** 28 hours (1,680 minutes, average of 15 minutes per U.S. carrier to post plans and contracts of carriage on Web site).

**Frequency:** One time per respondent.

2. Requirement to retain for two years information about any tarmac delay that lasts at least three hours. (259.2 and 259.4).

*Title:* Retaining Ground Delay Information.

*Respondents:* U.S. carriers that operate or market scheduled or public charter passenger service using any aircraft with a designed seating capacity of 30 or more seats, and foreign air carriers that operate or market scheduled or public charter passenger service to and from the United States using any aircraft with a designed seating capacity of 30 or more seats. To be covered, the tarmac delay must have occurred at a U.S. large hub, medium hub, small hub or non-hub airport.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 61 U.S. and 93 foreign carriers.

*Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:* A maximum of 88 hours (5,280 minutes) for a U.S. respondent and a maximum of 32 hours (1,920 minutes) for a foreign respondent. The estimate was calculated multiplying the estimated time to retain information about one ground delay (2 hours) by the total number of ground delay incidents lasting at least three hours per U.S. respondent (a maximum of 44 incidents, derived from analysis of tarmac delays for CY2016). For foreign respondents, the estimate was similarly calculated by multiplying the estimated time to retain information about one ground delay (4 hours) by the total number of ground delay incidents lasting at least three hours for CY2016 (a maximum of 8 incidents).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* A maximum of 680 hours (40,800 minutes) for all respondents. For U.S. carriers, the subtotal was determined by multiplying the sum of the total per report time (2 hours) for U.S. carriers by the total number of CY2016 ground delay incidents lasting at least three hours for all U.S. carriers (84 total incidents). For foreign carriers the subtotal was determined by multiplying the per report time (4 hours) for foreign carriers multiplied by the total number of ground delay incidents lasting at least three hours for the foreign carriers (168 total incidents). The estimate was calculated by adding the sum of the two subtotals for all CY2016 tarmac delays lasting at least three hours (168 hours for U.S. carriers plus 512 hours for foreign carriers).

*Frequency:* A maximum of 44 ground delay information sets to retain per year for a single respondent. (*N.b.* Some air carriers may not experience any ground delay incidents of at least three hours in each year, while one air carrier experienced 44 three-hour plus delays

in CY2016 per data reported to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics).

3. Requirement that certain U.S. and foreign air carriers retain for two years the results of its annual self-audit of its compliance with its Customer Service Plan. (259.2 and 259.5)

*Title:* Retaining Self-audit of Customer Service Plan.

*Respondents:* U.S. carriers that operate scheduled passenger service using any aircraft with a designed seating capacity of 30 or more seats, and foreign air carriers that operate scheduled passenger service to and from the United States using any aircraft with a designed seating capacity of 30 or more seats. Applicable to U.S. carriers that have a Web site and foreign carriers that have a Web site marketed toward U.S. consumers.

*Number of Respondents:* 45 U.S. and 65 foreign carriers.

*Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:* 15 minutes per year for each respondent. The estimate was calculated by multiplying the estimated time to retain a copy of the carrier's self-audit of its compliance with its Customer Service Plan by the number of audits per carrier in a given year (1).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* A maximum of 28 (1,680 minutes) for all respondents. The estimate was calculated by multiplying the time in a given year for each carrier to retain a copy of its self-audit of its compliance with its Customer Service Plan (15 minutes) by the total number of covered carriers (115 carriers).

*Frequency:* One information set to retain per year for each respondent.

4. Requires that each large U.S. carrier display on its Web site, at a point before the consumer selects a flight for purchase, the following information for each listed flight regarding its on-time performance during the last reported month: The percentage of arrivals that were on time (within 15 minutes of scheduled arrival time), the percentage of arrivals that were more than 30 minutes late (with special highlighting if the flight was more than 30 minutes late more than 50 percent of the time), and the percentage of flight cancellations if the flight is cancelled more than 5% of the time. In addition, a marketing/reporting carrier display delay data for its non-reporting code-share carrier(s). (234.11)

*Title:* Displaying On-time performance Information on Carrier Web site.

*Respondents:* Currently every U.S. carrier that accounts for at least one percent of scheduled passenger revenue and maintains a Web site. For travel on or after January 1, 2018, every U.S.

carrier that accounts for at least 0.5 percent and less than 1.0 percent of domestic scheduled passenger revenue and that market flights directly to consumers via a Web site.

*Number of Respondents:* 10 carriers presently; 11 carriers beginning January 1, 2018.

*Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:* 2 hours per month (24 hours) to cover both updates of a carrier's own delay data and updates of code-share delay data.

*Estimated total annual burden:* No more than 264 hours (15,840 minutes) a year for all respondents. The estimate was calculated by multiplying the total number of hours per carrier per year for management of data links (24) by the number of currently covered carriers (11). For the first year, the annual burden will also include the 4,673 (280,380) hours for one newly reporting carrier.

*Frequency:* Updating information for each flight listed on Web site 12 times per year (1 time per month) for each respondent (for both own carrier delay data and code-share delay data).

5. Requirement that certain carriers report tarmac delay data for tarmac delays exceeding 3 hours to the Department monthly. (244.2)

*Title:* Reporting Tarmac Delay Data for Tarmac Delays Exceeding 3 Hours (to the extent such information is not reported by U.S. carriers under 14 CFR part 234).

*Respondents:* U.S. carriers that operate scheduled passenger service or public charter service using any aircraft with a designed seating capacity of 30 or more seats, and foreign air carriers that operate scheduled passenger service to and from the United States using any aircraft with a designed seating capacity of 30 or more seats. To be covered, the tarmac delay must have occurred at a U.S. large hub, medium hub, small hub or non-hub airport.

*Number of Respondents:* 61 U.S. and 70 foreign carriers.

*Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:* 0.0 to 22.0 hours per U.S. respondent (the latter if 44 three-hour plus tarmac delays must be reported) and 0.0 to 4 hours per foreign respondent (the latter if 8 three-hour plus tarmac delays must be reported). This is estimating that each report takes 30 minutes to submit.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 106 hours (6,360 minutes) for all respondents.

*Frequency:* One information set to submit per incident for each respondent that experiences a tarmac delay of 3 hours or more (212 three-hour plus tarmac delay reports total were

submitted in CY16 to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics).

We invite comments on (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All comments will also become a matter of public record on the docket.

Issued this 8th day of November 2017, at Washington, DC.

**Claire W. Barrett,**

*DOT Chief Privacy & Information Governance Officer, Office of the Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2017-24834 Filed 11-15-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board (Board) will meet on December 5-7, 2017, at 11301 Wilshire Boulevard, Building 500, Room 1281, Los Angeles, CA, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (Pacific). Sessions are open to the public, except when the Committee is conducting tours of VA facilities, participating in off-site events, and participating in workgroup sessions. Tours of VA facilities are closed, to

protect Veterans' privacy and personal information.

The Board is a statutory board established by the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 on September 29, 2016. The purpose of the Board is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on: Identifying the goals of the community and Veteran partnership; improving services and outcomes for Veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and the families of such Veterans and members; and on the implementation of the Draft Master Plan approved by the Secretary on January 28, 2016, and on the creation and implementation of any successor master plans.

On Tuesday, December 5, the Board will convene an open session from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The agenda will include briefings from officials at the VA and other VA entities to include: Training on Federal advisory committees and Ethics; guidance to the Board members on their roles and responsibilities. The Board will be broken into small groups to participate in a facilitated working-group activity for the balance of the day, and report out to the full committee to complete the day.

On Wednesday, December 6, the Board will convene an open session from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The agenda will include briefings on the West LA Leasing Act of 2016, and a detailed briefing on the Draft Master Plan (with updates). From 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Board will convene in a closed session as it tours the West LA Campus. The Board will reconvene an open session at 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at which, the Board members will once again participate in Committee Facilitated discussions followed by additional facilitated subcommittee discussions. The day will conclude with

any closing remarks and guidance from the Board Chair.

On Thursday, December 7, the Board will convene an open session from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will begin with reports or comments from the subcommittee facilitated discussion, and discussion of topics and schedule for upcoming meetings. Additionally, time will be allocated for receiving public comments on December 7, at 9:45 a.m. Public comments shall be limited to five minutes each. Individuals wishing to make oral statements before the Board will be accommodated on a first come first serve basis. Individuals who speak are invited to submit a 1-2 page summary of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official record. The Board will accept written comments from interested parties on issues outlined in the meeting agenda, as well as other issues affecting identifying the goals of the community and Veteran partnership; improving services and outcomes for Veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and the families of such Veterans and members; and on the implementation of the Draft Master Plan. Such comments should be sent to Eugene W. Skinner, Jr., Designated Federal Officer, Veterans Experience Office via email to [Eugene.Skinner@va.gov](mailto:Eugene.Skinner@va.gov). *Note: Videotaping and/or digital recording is not permitted at the meeting unless allowed by the Designated Federal Officer.*

Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Mr. Skinner, via email at [Eugene.Skinner@va.gov](mailto:Eugene.Skinner@va.gov) or by phone at (202) 631-7645.

Dated: November 13, 2017.

**Jelessa M. Burney,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2017-24878 Filed 11-15-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**