

Dated: October 28, 1996.

John W. Magaw,

Director.

[FR Doc. 96-28144 Filed 11-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-31-P

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Federal Firearms Licensee Theft/Loss Report.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 3, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Linda Barnes, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Janice Fields, Firearms and Explosives Operations Branch, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226 (202) 927-8052.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Firearms Licensee Theft/Loss Report.

OMB Number: 1512-0524.

Form Number: ATF F 3310.11.

Abstract: Authorization of this form is requested within 7 days as the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act requires Federal firearms licensees to report to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and to the appropriate local authorities any theft or loss of a firearm from the licensee's inventory or collection, within a specific timeframe after the theft or loss is discovered.

Current Actions: There are no changes to this information collection and it is being submitted for extension purposes only.

Type of Review: Extension.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,000

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 24 minutes

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1600

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

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Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

Federal Reserve System

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCIES: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury; Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board); and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the OCC, the Board, and the FDIC (the "agencies") may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent need not respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Report) are currently

approved collections of information for the agencies. Under the auspices of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), of which the agencies are members, the agencies are proposing to no longer accept Call Reports that are filed directly with them in hard copy (paper) form. The only Call Reports that the agencies would accept would be those filed electronically or on computer diskette with the agencies' electronic collection agent. A bank could either file its reports directly with the agent or contract with a third party for the conversion of its reports from hard copy (paper) to automated form and the filing of the reports with the agent. The agencies would phase out their acceptance of paper Call Report forms as of the June 30, September 30, and December 31, 1997, report dates based on bank size. Comments are invited on the use of this automated collection technique from both users and nonusers of Call Report software and the electronic filing method. In particular, respondents are requested to comment on the automated collection process as a way to minimize the burden of this information collection on banks, on any initial implementation costs to banks, and on ongoing costs to banks after initial implementation. At the end of the comment period, the comments received will be evaluated to determine whether modifications should be made to the proposal before the FFIEC gives its final approval. The agencies will then submit the filing policy to OMB for review and approval.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to any or all of the agencies. All comments, which should refer to the OMB control number(s), will be shared among the agencies.

OCC: Written comments should be submitted to the Communications Division, Ninth Floor, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20219, Attention: OMB Control No. 1557-0081 [FAX number (202) 874-5274; Internet address: regs.comments@occ.treas.gov]. Comments will be available for inspection and photocopying at that address.

Board: Written comments should be addressed to Mr. William W. Wiles, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551, Attention: OMB Control No. 7100-0036, or delivered to the Board's mail room between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., and to the security control room outside of

those hours. Both the mail room and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, N.W. Comments received may be inspected in room M-P-500 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except as provided in section 261.8 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.8(a).

FDIC: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of the Executive Secretary, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20429, Attention: OMB Control No. 3064-0052. Comments may be hand-delivered to room F-402, 1776 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20429, on business days between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Comments may be sent through facsimile to: (202) 898-3838 or by the Internet to: comments@fdic.gov. Comments will be available for inspection at the FDIC Public Information Center, room 100, 801 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on business days.

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the agencies: Alexander Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, D.C. 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the proposed revisions to the collections of information may be requested from any of the agency clearance officers whose names appear below.

OCC: Jessie Gates, OCC Clearance Officer, (202) 874-5090, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, OMB Control No. 1557-0081, 250 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20219.

Board: Mary M. McLaughlin, Board Clearance Officer, (202) 452-3829, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, OMB Control No. 7100-0036, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551. For the hearing impaired only, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), Dorothea Thompson, (202) 452-3544, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

FDIC: Steven F. Hanft, FDIC Clearance Officer, (202) 898-3907, Office of the Executive Secretary, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, OMB Control No. 3064-0052, 550 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20429.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal to Revise the Filing Method for the Following Currently Approved Collections of Information

Title: Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Report).
Form Number: FFIEC 031, 032, 033, 034.¹

Frequency of Response: Quarterly.
Affected Public: Business and other for-profit (Insured commercial and FDIC-supervised savings banks).

For OCC:

OMB Number: 1557-0081.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,800 national banks.

Estimated Time per Response: 39.62 burden hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 443,744 burden hours.

For Board:

OMB Number: 7100-0036.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,002 state member banks.

Estimated Time per Response: 45.70 burden hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 183,166 burden hours.

For FDIC:

OMB Number: 3064-0052.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,668 insured state nonmember commercial and savings banks.

Estimated Time per Response: 28.72 burden hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 765,900 burden hours.

Note Regarding Burden: The preceding burden estimates include the time for reviewing the Call Report instructions, gathering and maintaining data in the form required for the Call Report, and completing the Call Report information collection, but exclude the time for compiling and maintaining business records in the normal course of a bank's activities. The estimated time per response varies by agency because of differences in the composition of the banks under each agency's supervision (e.g., size distribution of banks, types of activities in which they are engaged, and number of banks with foreign offices).

General Description of Report: This information collection is mandatory: 12 U.S.C. 161 (for national banks), 12 U.S.C. 324 (for state member banks), and

12 U.S.C. 1817 (for insured state nonmember commercial and savings banks). Except for select sensitive items, this information collection is not given confidential treatment. Small businesses (i.e., small banks) are affected.

Abstract: Call Reports are filed quarterly with the agencies for their use in monitoring the condition and performance of reporting banks and the industry as a whole. The reports are also used to calculate banks' deposit insurance assessments and for monetary policy and other public policy purposes.

Current Actions: Under the auspices of the FFIEC, the agencies are proposing to no longer accept Call Reports filed directly with them in hard copy (paper) form. The only Call Reports that the agencies would accept would be those filed electronically or on computer diskette with the agencies' electronic collection agent. A bank could either file its reports directly with the agent or arrange for a third party to convert its reports from hard copy (paper) form to automated form and then file them with the agent. The agencies' acceptance of paper Call Report forms would be phased out as of the June 30, September 30, and December 31, 1997, report dates based on bank size.

Type of Review: Revision.

For the past eight years, a bank has been permitted to electronically submit its Call Report to the agencies' electronic collection agent over telephone lines using a computer and modem.² Alternatively, a bank could mail a computer diskette containing its Call Report to the agent. Electronic Data Systems Corporation (EDS) is the electronic collection agent for the agencies. A bank submitting its Call Report to EDS electronically or on diskette is not required to mail a hard copy of its Call Report directly to any of the agencies unless specifically requested to do so.³ Nevertheless, the bank must maintain in its files a signed and attested printout of the data submitted to EDS showing at least the title of each Call Report item and the reported amount. To fulfill the Call Report's signature and attestation requirement, the cover page of the Call Report forms that the agencies mail to the bank each quarter must be signed by an officer and bank directors and

¹The FFIEC 031 report form is filed by banks with domestic and foreign offices. The FFIEC 032 report form is filed by banks with domestic offices only and total assets of \$300 million or more. The FFIEC 033 report form is filed by banks with domestic offices only and total assets of \$100 million or more but less than \$300 million. The FFIEC 034 report form is filed by banks with domestic offices only and total assets of less than \$100 million.

²Since the June 30, 1989, report date, banks that have or have had more than one foreign office, other than a "shell" branch or an International Banking Facility, and that use any of the additional 15 days allowed for the completion of their reports, have been required to file their reports electronically with the agencies' electronic collection agent. This requirement applies to fewer than 200 banks.

³Such requests rarely have been made.

attached to the printout placed in the bank's files.

Electronic filing capability is available through the use of computer software that supports this submission method. Software that EDS has certified for electronic filing is available through certain vendors that have completed a certification process. Currently, Call Report preparation software products marketed by the American Bankers Association/DBI Financial Systems, Inc.; DPSC Software, Inc.; Information Technology, Inc.; and Sheshunoff Information Services, Inc., have been certified for electronic submission by EDS.⁴ Information Technology's software operates on mainframe computers while the other three vendors' software products run on personal computers. The annual cost of Call Report software for personal computers starts at approximately \$200 for small banks and the software runs effectively on any 286 or higher personal computer with a hard drive. No formal computer training is necessary to operate Call Report software. Banks generally have found that the instruction manuals for the Call Report software and the customer support help desks operated by the software vendors provide all the

assistance necessary for their use of the software.

As an alternative to purchasing software, a bank could develop its own Call Report software and go through the certification process. However, banks normally find that purchasing certified computer software which is updated regularly by a vendor is more economical than developing and maintaining their own software.

The agencies have provided the aforementioned software companies with a significant number of edits that the agencies normally use for validating the Call Report information submitted to them each quarter. As a result, while each bank is responsible for the quality of its Call Report data, a bank using a commercial software package can correct errors identified by the software package prior to filing the Call Report, and provide better quality data to the agencies. This procedure saves a bank time by reducing agency inquiries for data correction after the Call Report has been filed. The commercial software also provides immediate confirmation to a bank that files electronically that EDS has received its Call Report. Thus, electronic submission promotes the accuracy of and speeds the receipt and processing of Call Report data. This

means that electronic submission also translates into lower costs for the agencies and for the insurance funds administered by the FDIC.

Over the past five years, the percentage of banks submitting Call Reports to the electronic collection agent has climbed from 28 percent to 54 percent. The number of banks using certified computer software to file Call Reports in this manner has increased from 3,503 as of the June 30, 1991, report date to 5,570 as of the June 30, 1996, report date. This reflects the banking industry's growing recognition of the benefits of this powerful tool for completing and filing reports. Furthermore, some 2,400 additional banks, 23 percent of all institutions, used computer software to prepare their June 30, 1996, Call Report, but submitted a computer-generated hard copy (paper) facsimile report to the agencies. The agencies believe that these banks can change from their current paper-based filing method to the electronic or computer diskette filing method with little difficulty. Thus, about 77 percent of banks currently use computer software for preparing and filing their Call Reports. The distribution of banks by size and report preparation and filing method as of the June 30, 1996, report date is as follows:

Asset size	Banks using computer software to file with electronic collection agent		Banks using computer software to file computer-generated hard copy (paper) reports		Banks using computer software		Banks not using computer software		Total banks	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than \$10 million	90	29	48	16	138	45	170	55	308	100
\$10-\$25 million	507	34	403	27	910	61	575	39	1,485	100
\$25-\$50 million	926	39	724	30	1,650	69	734	31	2,384	100
\$50-\$100 million	1,371	53	681	27	2,052	80	515	20	2,567	100
Over \$100 million	2,676	74	542	15	3,218	89	376	11	3,594	100
All banks	5,570	54	2,398	23	7,968	77	2,370	23	10,338	100

The agencies are proposing to phase out their acceptance of hard copy (paper) Call Reports filed directly with them according to the following timetable:

- Beginning with the Call Reports for June 30, 1997, banks with assets of \$50 million or more (as reported in the June 30, 1996, Call Report) must file their Call Reports electronically or on computer diskette with the agencies' electronic collection agent.

- Beginning with the Call Reports for September 30, 1997, banks with assets of \$25 million or more (as reported in the June 30, 1996, Call Report) must file their Call Reports electronically or on computer diskette with the collection agent.

- Beginning with the Call Reports for December 31, 1997, all banks must file their Call Reports electronically or on computer diskette with the collection agent.

Once a bank's Call Reports must be filed electronically or on computer diskette with EDS, the agencies' electronic collection agent, the bank would have two ways to satisfy this filing requirement. The bank could prepare its reports in automated form and file them directly with EDS. Alternatively, it could complete its reports in hard copy (paper) form and contract with a third party, such as one of the Call Report software companies,

⁴For further information on available Call Report preparation software, contact:

American Bankers Assoc./DBI Financial Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 1249, Cannon Beach, Oregon 97110, Telephone: (800) 774-3279.

DPSC Software, Inc., 23501 Park, Sorrento, Suite 105, Calabasas, California 91302, Telephone: (800) 825-3772.

Information Technology, Inc., 1345 Old Cheney Road, Lincoln, Nebraska 68512, Telephone: (403)

423-2682. Sheshunoff Information Services, Inc., P.O. Box 13203 Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3203, Telephone: (800) 456-2340.

for the conversion of its paper reports to automated form and the filing of the reports with EDS.

Under the proposed timetable, each bank would receive the applicable set of Call Report forms at the end of each of the first three quarters of 1997 (i.e., through the September 30, 1997, report date) just as at present without regard to their eligibility to file paper Call Report forms. For the December 31, 1997, report date, each bank would receive a sample set of Call Report forms but could not file a hard copy (paper) report with the agencies. In 1998 and subsequent years, the agencies would send each bank a sample of the applicable set of that year's Call Report forms only once during the year, i.e., before the end of the first quarter, rather than quarterly. The agencies would monitor banks' need for annual sample forms and could modify this procedure if deemed appropriate.

Request for Comment

Comments submitted in response to this Notice will be shared among the agencies and will be summarized or included in the agencies' requests for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Written comments are invited on the use of this automated collection technique from both users and nonusers of Call Report software and the electronic filing method. Respondents are requested to comment on the automated collection process as a way to minimize the burden of this information collection on banks. Commenters also are requested to provide estimates of any initial costs that banks not currently using Call Report preparation software will incur in implementing this electronic filing method as well as estimates of the ongoing costs to such banks from the use of this method after its initial implementation. Similarly, commenters are requested to provide estimates of any initial and ongoing costs that would not otherwise be incurred by banks that currently use Call Report software, but submit computer-generated hard copy (paper) reports to the agencies.

The agencies invite comment on the accuracy of their estimates of the overall burden of the Call Report information collections as the filing requirements are proposed to be revised. These burden estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data in the required form for the Call Report, and completing the report. In addition, comment is requested on whether this proposed revision to the Call Report information collections is necessary for the proper performance of

the agencies' functions, including whether the information has practical utility, and on ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected in the Call Report.

The agencies also request comments on whether they should consider discontinuing their acceptance of other hard copy (paper) reports (such as the Annual Report of Trust Assets (form FFIEC 001), which is filed annually as of each December 31 by insured banks and savings associations with trust powers and nondeposit trust companies, and the Summary of Deposits, which is filed annually as of each June 30 by each bank with more than one office) and instead accept only reports that are filed electronically or on computer diskette.

Dated: October 28, 1996.

Karen Solomon,

Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 28, 1996.

William W. Wiles,

Secretary of the Board.

Dated at Washington, D.C., this 29th day of October, 1996.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Jerry L. Langley,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-28238 Filed 11-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-33-P; 6210-01-P; 6714-01-P

Customs Service

Solicitation of Applications for TECRO/AIT Carnet Issuing and Guaranteeing Association

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public of the signing of a bilateral carnet agreement between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative in the United States (TECRO) and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) for the temporary admission of goods, commercial samples and professional equipment. It further informs the public that Customs is soliciting applications from those associations in the United States which are willing and capable of issuing and guaranteeing any TECRO/AIT carnets pursuant to the Agreement. **DATES:** Applications must be received by January 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written applications should be addressed to Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations, U.S. Customs Service, 1031 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Scopa, Office of Field Operations 202-927-3112, or Sharon Goodson, International Organizations and Agreements Division 202-927-0971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This notice advises the public of the signing of a bilateral carnet agreement between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative in the United States (TECRO) and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) for the temporary admission of goods, commercial samples and professional equipment. In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, also published in this issue of the Federal Register, Customs is proposing to amend its regulations which apply to carnets to reflect this new agreement.

A carnet is an international customs document, backed by an internationally valid guarantee, which may be used for the temporary admission of merchandise. The carnet is used in place of the usual national customs documentation and guarantees the payment of duties (including taxes) which may become due if the requirements of the carnet are not satisfied.

Taiwan is currently ineligible to accede to the ATA Carnet Convention, under which carnets facilitate trade among more than fifty contracting parties. Thus, Taiwan has sought access to the carnet facility through the recently concluded TECRO/AIT Carnet Agreement. This agreement was negotiated pursuant to the authority contained in 22 U.S.C. 3305.

Solicitation for Applications

As a result of the signing of the TECRO/AIT Carnet agreement, it is necessary for Customs to solicit applications for an organization to issue and guarantee TECRO/AIT carnets.

Generally, a domestic association in participating countries that are members of the International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce issues carnets to residents for use abroad. The issuing association must be approved by the Commissioner of Customs.

A domestic association in participating countries that are members of the International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce also generally guarantees the payment of duties and other sums to its respective customs authorities in the event of noncompliance with the conditions or the procedures for which the carnet is used. The guaranteeing association is jointly and severally liable