§ 408.405 When do we require original records or copies as evidence?

(a) General rule. To prove your qualification for or continuing entitlement to SVB, you may be asked to show us an original document or record. These original documents or records will be returned to you after we have photocopied them. We will also accept copies of original records that are properly certified and some uncertified birth certifications. These types of records are described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) Certified copies of original records. You may give us copies of original records or extracts from records if they are certified as true and exact copies by:

(1) The official custodian of the record;
(2) A Social Security Administration employee authorized to certify copies;
(3) A Veterans Affairs employee if the evidence was given to that agency to obtain veteran’s benefits;
(4) An employee of the Veterans Affairs Regional Office, Manila, Philippines who is authorized to certify copies; or
(5) A U.S. Consular Officer or employee of the Department of State authorized to certify copies.

(c) Uncertified copies of original birth records. You may give us an uncertified photocopy of a birth registration notification as evidence of age where it is the practice of the local birth registrar to issue them in this way.

§ 408.406 How do we evaluate the evidence you give us?

When you give us evidence, we examine it to see if it is convincing evidence. This means that unless we have information in our records that raises a doubt about the evidence, other evidence of the same fact will not be needed. If the evidence you give us is not convincing by itself, we may ask you for additional evidence. In evaluating whether the evidence you give us is convincing, we consider such things as whether:

(a) The information contained in the evidence was given by a person in a position to know the facts;
(b) There was any reason to give false information when the evidence was created;
(c) The information in the evidence was given under oath, or with witnesses present, or with the knowledge that there was a penalty for giving false information;
(d) The evidence was created at the time the event took place or shortly thereafter;
(e) The evidence has been altered or has any erasures on it; and
(f) The information contained in the evidence agrees with other available evidence including our records.

§ 408.410 When you need to give us evidence of your age?

To qualify for SVB you must establish that you were age 65 or older on December 14, 1999, the date on which Public Law 106–169 was enacted into law. If we have already established your age or date of birth in connection with your claim for other benefit programs that we administer, you will not have to give us evidence of your age for your SVB claim. If we have not established your age or date of birth, you must give us evidence of your age or date of birth. In the absence of information to the contrary, we generally will not ask for additional evidence of your age or date of birth if you state that you are at least age 68, and you submit documentary evidence that is at least 3 years old when the application is filed and supports your statement.

§ 408.412 What kinds of evidence of age do you need to give us?

For a description of the kinds of evidence of age you may need to give us, see §416.802 of this chapter.

§ 408.413 How do we evaluate the evidence of age you give us?

In evaluating the evidence of age you give us, we use the rules in §416.803 of this chapter.