

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD (RRB)

Statement of Regulatory Priorities

The Railroad Retirement Board administers a retirement program for railroad workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 and an unemployment and sickness benefit program for railroad workers under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. Regulations issued by the Railroad Retirement Board under these two statutes and certain Governmentwide statutes are contained in chapter II of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The Board has been involved in a multiyear project to review, revise, and update its regulations. During this project, the Board has published final rules amending nearly all of its regulations. In addition, there are several regulations actively under consideration by the Board at this time. The Board's short-term plan is to publish final regulations to complete the total review and revision project undertaken previously.

The regulations issued by the Railroad Retirement Board are virtually all interpretive rather than legislative in nature. These regulations are designed to be informative and to assist the agency's constituents understand the benefit systems administered by the Board. In promulgating regulations, the agency is mindful of the burdens that may be imposed on the public and crafts its regulations in such a way as to impose the least possible burden on the public. In addition, through regulation, the Board makes every effort to simplify and streamline administration of the programs it administers. We believe that the Board's regulatory review program is consistent with the priorities and objectives of the Administration.

RRB

PROPOSED RULE STAGE

144. • FINALITY OF DECISIONS REGARDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Priority:

Other Significant

Reinventing Government:

This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will

revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority:

45 USC 231f(b)(5)

CFR Citation:

20 CFR 261

Legal Deadline:

None

Abstract:

This new part explains when the Board will reopen a claim for benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act.

Statement of Need:

The rules governing finality are presently contained in Board Orders which are not readily available to the public. The Board Order regarding finality of decisions provides that finality of certain decisions is based on a number of factors; adjudication based on these factors is difficult to administer. Also the Board Order does not contain any time limits on reopening.

Summary of the Legal Basis:

The general authority for issuance of regulations under the Railroad Retirement Act is provided for in section 7(b)(5) of the Act (45 USC 231f(b)(5)).

Alternatives:

None.

Anticipated Costs and Benefits:

There will be no additional costs or burdens imposed by this regulation over and above those imposed by the statute or existing regulation.

Risks:

None.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/95	

Small Entities Affected:

None

Government Levels Affected:

Federal

Additional Information:

In the April 1995 agenda, a proposed amendment to part 261 was combined with the proposed amendment to part 211 of the Board's regulations as RIN 3220-AB10. For the October 1995 Regulatory Plan and Unified Agenda, however, it has been separated from

RIN 3220-AB10, and is identified as a separate amendment.

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RIN: 3220-AB15

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FINAL RULE STAGE

145. RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS

Priority:

Other Significant

Reinventing Government:

This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority:

45 USC 231f(b)(5)

CFR Citation:

20 CFR 255

Legal Deadline:

None

Abstract:

The Board plans to issue a final regulation dealing with collection and waiver of overpayments under the Railroad Retirement Act. This regulation clarifies the agency's policy and practice with respect to debt collection.

Statement of Need:

The agency's policy and practice with respect to recovery and waiver of recovery of overpayments, as established through normal adjudication, has evolved beyond the current regulation and the regulation is being updated to reflect this current policy and practice.

Summary of the Legal Basis:

The general authority for issuance of regulations under the Railroad Retirement Act is provided for in section 7(b)(5) of the Act (45 USC 231f(b)(5)).

Alternatives:

None.

Anticipated Costs and Benefits:

This regulation should result in savings in administrative costs associated with protests and appeals in debt recovery cases.

Risks:

None.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/19/91	56 FR 47426

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	10/21/91	56 FR 47426
Final Action	03/00/96	

Small Entities Affected:

None

Government Levels Affected:

Federal

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