

**COMPUTER MATCHING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
FOR
PART B BLACK LUNG BENEFIT DATA
Match #1015**

I. Purpose

This computer matching agreement (agreement) establishes the terms, conditions, and safeguards under which the Department of Labor (DOL) will disclose the DOL-administered Part B Black Lung (BL) benefit data to the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSA will match DOL's Part B BL data with SSA's records of persons receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to verify that Part B BL beneficiaries are receiving the correct amount of SSI payments.

II. Legal Authority

This agreement is executed in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a), as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-503), and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

The legal authority for this agreement is section 1631(f) of the Social Security Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. § 1383(f). This legal authority requires any Federal agency to provide SSA with information in its possession that SSA may require for making a determination of eligibility for, or the proper amount, of SSI payments.

III. Responsibilities of the Parties

A. SSA's Responsibilities

1. SSA will match the Supplemental Security Income Record and Special Veterans Benefits (SSR) with an extract from DOL's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), BL Benefit Payments file, to verify that Part B BL beneficiaries are receiving the correct amount of SSI payments.
2. SSA will notify all individuals who apply for SSI payments that SSA will conduct matching programs and that information the individual gives to SSA will be subject to verification through matching programs.
3. SSA will publish the Privacy Act notice of this matching program in the Federal Register (Fed. Reg.) and will provide Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) with notice of this program.

B. DOL's Responsibilities

1. DOL will provide to SSA an extract file containing data elements listed in section V.C. DOL will provide the extract file to SSA each month in a format defined by SSA, such as through a web service using SSA-supplied login credentials. DOL will comply with SSA policies governing login credentials and all applicable security policies.
2. DOL will notify all individuals who apply for Part B BL benefits that DOL will conduct matching programs and that information the individual gives to DOL will be subject to verification through matching programs.
3. The DOL component responsible for this matching program is the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC).

IV. **Justification and Anticipated Results**

A. Justification

Data exchange under this matching program is necessary for SSA to determine the accuracy of SSI payments to Part B BL beneficiaries. DOL and SSA will use computer technology to transfer the data because it is more economical, more efficient, and faster than using manual processes. Computer matching is believed to be the most efficient and comprehensive method of collecting and comparing this data.

B. Anticipated Results

According to SSA's cost benefit analysis report for fiscal year (FY) 2022 (attachment), the benefit to the United States Treasury from this matching operation is the correction of those cases in which SSA is required to take action to suspend, decrease, or increase monthly payment amount based on unearned Part B BL benefits and compensation, and the prevention of future overpayments. The total benefit from this match for FY 2022 was approximately \$12,460. The total cost to SSA for this match for FY 2022 was approximately \$2,697. The benefit to cost ratio is 4.62 to 1.

V. **Description of Matched Records**

A. Systems of Records (SOR)

SSA will match the DOL extract file against the SSR (60-0103) SOR, last fully published on January 11, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 1830), as amended on December 10, 2007 (72 Fed. Reg. 69723), July 3, 2018 (83 Fed. Reg. 31250-31251), November 1, 2018 (83 Fed. Reg. 54969), and January 5, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 825). DOL's extract file is from DOL's OWCP, BL Benefit Payments file, DOL/OWCP-9, last fully published on April 29, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 25765 at 25866). DOL has the appropriate routine uses to permit the disclosures necessary to conduct this match. The

information in these SORs may be updated during the effective period of this agreement as required by the Privacy Act.

B. Number of Records

DOL's monthly extract file will contain necessary identifying and payment information for approximately 19,000 individuals, all miners, receiving Part B BL benefit payments. Additionally, once every year, DOL will send an additional file representing all Part B BL benefit records, referred to as the saturation file, regardless of any changes.

C. Specified Data Elements

DOL's monthly extract file will contain each Part B BL beneficiary's Social Security number (SSN), name, date of birth, date of entitlement, payment status, current benefit amount, and effective date of the current benefit amount. SSA will determine which of the recipients are receiving SSI payments and match the DOL data against the SSN, type of action code, and income type for those recipients in SSA's SSR.

VI. Accuracy Assessments

Previous matches with the same files indicate that the SSNs on DOL records are at least 99 percent accurate. The DOL data is nearly 100 percent accurate at the time of creation.

VII. Procedures for Individualized Notice

A. Applicants

Both DOL and SSA will notify all applicants for benefits in their respective programs that the agencies will conduct matching programs, and that information the applicant provides to the agencies will be subject to verification through matching programs.

Both DOL's and SSA's notices will consist of appropriate language printed on application forms or separate handouts.

B. Beneficiaries/Recipients

DOL will provide subsequent notices describing DOL's matching activities to affected beneficiaries by annual mailings.

SSA will provide subsequent notices describing SSA's matching activities to all SSI recipients by periodic SSA mailings.

C. Federal Register Notice

In addition to the direct notice procedure, SSA will publish notice of this matching program in the Federal Register.

VIII. Verification Procedure and Opportunity to Contest

A. Verification Procedures

SSA will take no adverse action regarding SSI recipients identified through the matching process solely based on information obtained through this match. SSA will contact the recipient to verify the matching results in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act and applicable OMB guidelines.

The affected individual will have an opportunity to contest the accuracy of the information provided by DOL. SSA will consider the information that DOL provides as accurate if the recipient does not contest it within 60 days after they receive notice of the proposed adverse action. SSI recipients who file an appeal within 10 days of receiving the notice will automatically receive payment continuation, unless waived in writing. SSA will advise the recipient that failure to respond within 60 days will result in SSA treating the information DOL provided as accurate.

B. Opportunity to Contest

1. Before taking any adverse action based on the information received from the match, SSA will notify the applicant or recipient and provide an opportunity to explain the circumstances prior to making a final eligibility determination or adjustment to current benefits.
2. Under applicable SSI regulations, 20 C.F.R. § 416.1336, SSA will notify the applicant or beneficiary, in writing, of the proposed adverse action. The notice will contain the following information:
 - (a) that SSA has received information that indicates that the proposed adverse action is necessary;
 - (b) that the individual has 60 days after receipt of the notice to file an appeal. The individual has 10 days, after receipt of the notice to appeal the proposed adverse action or SSA will conclude that the information provided by DOL is correct and will make the necessary adjustment to the individual's payment. An individual who files an appeal within 10 days of receiving the notice will automatically receive payment continuation (no adverse adjustment to the individual's payment) unless the individual waives the right to payment continuation in writing.

IX. Procedures for Retention and Timely Destruction of Identifiable Records

SSA will retain the electronic files received from DOL only for the period required for any processing related to the matching program and then will destroy all such data by electronic purging, unless SSA is required to retain the information in order to meet evidentiary requirements. In case of such retention for evidentiary purposes, SSA will retire the retained data in accordance with the applicable Federal Records Retention Schedule (44 U.S.C. § 3303a). SSA will not create permanent files or a separate system

comprised solely of the data provided by DOL.

X. Records Usage, Duplication, and Rediscovery Restrictions

SSA will adhere to the following limitations on the use, duplication, and disclosure of the electronic files and data provided by the other agency under this agreement:

- A. SSA will use and access DOL's data only for the purpose described in this agreement.
- B. SSA will not use DOL's data to extract information concerning individuals therein for any purpose not specified by this agreement.
- C. SSA will not duplicate or disseminate DOL's data, within or outside SSA, without DOL's written permission, except as required by Federal law. DOL will not give such permission unless the law requires disclosure or the disclosure is essential to the matching program. For such permission, SSA must specify in writing what data it is requesting be duplicated or disseminated and to whom, and the reasons that justify such duplication or dissemination.

XI. Security Procedures

SSA and DOL will comply with the requirements of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, Subchapter II, as amended by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-283); related OMB circulars and memoranda, such as Circular A-130, *Managing Information as a Strategic Resource* (July 28, 2016) and Memorandum M-17-12 *Preparing for and Responding to a Breach of Personally Identifiable Information* (January 3, 2017); National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) directives; and the Federal Acquisition Regulations, including any applicable amendments published after the effective date of this agreement. These laws, directives, and regulations include requirements for safeguarding Federal information systems and personally identifiable information (PII) used in Federal agency business processes, as well as related reporting requirements. Both agencies recognize, and will implement, the laws, regulations, NIST standards, and OMB directives including those published subsequent to the effective date of this agreement.

FISMA requirements apply to all Federal contractors, organizations, or entities that possess or use Federal information, or that operate, use, or have access to Federal information systems on behalf of an agency. Both agencies are responsible for oversight and compliance of their respective contractors and agents.

A. Loss Reporting

If SSA experiences an incident involving the loss or breach of PII provided by DOL under the terms of this agreement, SSA will follow the incident reporting guidelines issued by OMB. In the event of a reportable incident under OMB guidance involving PII, SSA will follow its established procedures, including notification to the proper organizations (e.g., United States Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the agency's privacy office). In addition, SSA will notify the other agency's Systems

Security Contact named in this agreement. If SSA is unable to speak with the DOL Systems Security Contact within one hour, SSA will contact DCMWC's Information Security Officer at (304) 344-5146, and will send an email to zzowcpsecurity@dol.gov.

B. Breach Notification

SSA will follow PII breach notification policies and related procedures issued by OMB. If SSA determines that the risk of harm requires notification to affected individuals or other remedies, SSA will carry out these remedies without cost to DOL.

C. Administrative Safeguards

SSA will restrict access to the data matched and to any data created by the match to only those users (e.g., employees, contractors, etc.) who need it to perform their official duties in connection with the uses of the data authorized in this agreement. Further, SSA will advise all personnel who will have access to the data matched, and to any data created by the match, of the confidential nature of the data, the safeguards required to protect the data, and the civil and criminal sanctions for noncompliance contained in the applicable Federal laws.

D. Physical Safeguards

SSA will store the data matched, and any data created by the match, in an area that is physically and technologically secure from access by unauthorized persons at all times (e.g., door locks, card keys, biometric identifiers, etc.). Only authorized personnel will transport the data matched and any data created by the match. SSA will establish appropriate safeguards for such data, as determined by a risk-based assessment of the circumstances involved.

E. Technical Safeguards

SSA will process the data matched, and any data created by the match, under the immediate supervision and control of authorized personnel in a manner that will protect the confidentiality of the data, so that unauthorized persons cannot retrieve any data by computer, remote terminal, or other means. Systems personnel must enter personal identification numbers when accessing data on the agencies' systems. SSA will strictly limit authorization to those electronic data areas necessary for the authorized analyst to perform their official duties.

F. Application of Policy and Procedures

SSA will adopt policies and procedures to ensure that each agency uses the information contained in their respective records or obtained from each other solely as provided in this agreement. SSA will comply with these guidelines and any subsequent revisions.

G. Security Assessments

The NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-37, as revised, encourages agencies to accept each other's security assessments in order to reuse information system resources and/or to accept each other's assessed security posture in order to share information. NIST SP 800-37 further encourages that this type of reciprocity is best achieved when agencies are transparent and make available sufficient evidence regarding the security state of an information system so that an authorizing official from another organization can use that evidence to make credible, risk-based decisions regarding the operation and use of that system or the information it processes, stores, or transmits. Consistent with that guidance, the parties agree to make available to each other upon request system security evidence for the purpose of making risk-based decisions. Requests for this information may be made by either party at any time throughout the duration or any extension of this agreement.

XII. Comptroller General Access

The Government Accountability Office (Comptroller General) may have access to all DOL and SSA data it deems necessary, in order to monitor or verify compliance with this agreement.

XIII. Reimbursement

At this time, DOL has determined that the costs incurred by DOL to provide the information detailed in this agreement to SSA are nominal. Therefore, DOL will provide services at no cost to SSA. If DOL determines in the future that the cost of providing services is significant, DOL may adjust reimbursement terms by means of a reimbursable agreement between DOL and SSA.

XIV. Duration, Modification, and Termination

A. Effective Date

The effective date of this agreement is November 25, 2024, provided that SSA reported the proposal to re-establish this matching program to the Congressional committees of jurisdiction and OMB in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552a(o)(2)(A) and OMB Circular A-108 (December 23, 2016), and SSA published notice of the matching program in the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e)(12).

B. Duration

This agreement will be in effect for a period of 18 months.

C. Renewal

The Data Integrity Boards (DIB) of DOL and SSA may, within 3 months prior to the expiration of this agreement, renew this agreement for a period not to exceed 12 months if DOL and SSA can certify to their DIBs that:

1. The matching program will be conducted without change; and
2. DOL and SSA have conducted the matching program in compliance with the original agreement.

If either agency does not want to continue this program, it must notify the other agency of its intention not to continue at least 90 days before the end of the agreement.

D. Modification

The parties may modify this agreement at any time by a written modification, agreed to by both agencies, and approved by the DIB of each agency.

E. Termination

The agencies may terminate this agreement at any time with the consent of both agencies. Either party may unilaterally terminate this agreement upon written notice to the other party requesting termination, in which case the termination will be effective 90 days after the date of such notice or a later date specified in the notice.

XV. Persons to Contact

A. SSA Contacts:

Matching Programs

Donald Scott, Government Information Specialist
 Office of Privacy and Disclosure
 Office of the General Counsel
 Social Security Administration
 6401 Security Boulevard
 Baltimore, MD 21235
 Telephone: (410) 965-8850
 Email: Donald.Scott@ssa.gov

Computer Systems Issues

Angil Escobar, Branch Chief
 DDE/Verifications and Exchanges Analysis Branch of Office of Enterprise
 Information Systems
 Office of the Chief Information Officer
 6401 Security Boulevard, 3-F-3 Robert M. Ball Building
 Baltimore, MD 21235
 Telephone: (410) 965-7213
 Email: Angil.Escobar@ssa.gov

Systems Security Issues

Jennifer Rutz, Director
Division of Compliance and Oversight
Office of Information Security
Office of Systems
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6201 Security Boulevard
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Telephone: (410) 966-8253
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Project Coordinator

Stephanie Meilinger
Office of Data Exchange and International Agreements
Office of Data Exchange, Policy Publications, and International Negotiations
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6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235
Telephone: (410) 966-0476
Email: Stephanie.Meilinger@ssa.gov

B. DOL Contacts:

Matching Programs

Carol Campbell, Branch Chief
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation
Branch of Policy Analysis & Program Standards
Room N-3464, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210
Telephone: (202) 343-5933 / Fax: (202) 343-5933
Email: Campbell.Carol.A@dol.gov

Systems Security Issues

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XVI. Integration

This agreement, including its attachment, constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all other data exchange agreements between the parties that pertain to the disclosure of the specified Part B BL benefit payment data for the purposes described herein. SSA and DOL have made no representations, warranties, or promises outside of this agreement. This agreement takes precedence over any other documents that may conflict with it, including any conflicting terms in any Interconnection Security Agreement entered into in accordance with NIST SP 800-47 governing the interconnections between information technology systems that will be utilized for the transfer of information under this agreement.

XVII. Authorized Signatures

The signatories below warrant and represent that they have the competent authority on behalf of their respective agencies to enter into the obligations set forth in this agreement.

Electronic Signature Acknowledgement: The signatories may sign this document electronically by using an approved electronic signature process. By signing this document electronically, the signatory agrees that the signature they provide has the same meaning and legal validity and effect as a handwritten signature.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Michelle Christ

Digitally signed by Michelle
Christ
Date: 2024.05.15 15:54:53 -04'00'

Michelle L. Christ
Deputy Executive Director
Office of Privacy and Disclosure
Office of the General Counsel

Date _____

Matthew D. Ramsey, Chair
Data Integrity Board

Date _____

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



Digitally signed by
VINCENT ALVAREZ
Date: 2024.05.17 08:24:17
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Vincent Alvarez
Division of Administrative Operations
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

Date _____

**Carolyn Angus
Hornbuckle**

Digitally signed by Carolyn
Angus Hornbuckle
Date: 2024.06.12 16:08:37
-04'00'

Carolyn Angus-Hornbuckle, Chairperson, Data Integrity Board
Senior Agency Official for Privacy

Date _____