

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

**Effective: May 25, 2017  
Expiration: November 24, 2018  
Match #1015**

**I. Purpose**

This computer matching 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, as amended, 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/SVB) 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 Part B BL beneficiary data. DOL will provide the extract file to SSA each month in a format defined by SSA via the SSA website using SSA-supplied login credentials. DOL will comply with SSA policies governing login credentials.
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.

## IV. **Justification and Anticipated Results**

### A. Justification

Data exchange under this matching program is necessary for DOL and 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

The benefit to the United States Treasury of 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.

Because of this matching operation, SSA avoided issuing \$1,874,154.48 in overpayments and correctly adjusted 294 SSRs to pay SSI recipients \$55,821.78 in underpayments, for a total benefit of \$1,929,976.26. The cost to SSA for this matching operation is \$3,536.60, thus showing the matching operation to be cost-effective with a benefit-to-cost ratio of 545.71:1.

## V. **Description of Matched Records**

### A. Systems of Records

SSA will match the SSR/SVB SSA/ODSSIS (60-0103) system of records, last fully published on January 11, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 1830) and amended on December 10, 2007 (72 Fed. Reg. 69723), which contains all data pertinent to payments made to Title XVI recipients, with an extract from DOL's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, BL Benefit Payments file (OWCP-9), published on April 29, 2016

(81 Fed. Reg. 25765). DOL has the appropriate routine uses to permit the disclosures necessary to conduct this match.

#### 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/SVB.

### 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 virtually 100 percent accurate at the time of creation. SSA estimates that at least 99 percent of the name and SSN information on the SSR/SVB is accurate based on SSA's internal consistency checks and the name/SSN verification procedures it uses before creating a payment record.

### 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 gives 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, when necessary.

#### B. Beneficiaries/Recipients

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

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

## **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 30 days after he or she receives notice of the proposed adverse action. SSI recipients who file an appeal within 10 days of receiving the notice will automatically receive payment continuation. SSA will advise the recipient that failure to respond within 30 days will provide a valid basis for SSA to assume that the information DOL provided is correct.

### **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, 10 days prior to taking any adverse action, 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; and
  - (b) that the individual has 10 days to contest 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.

## **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 Redislosure Restrictions**

SSA and DOL 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 and DOL will use and access the data only for the purpose described in this agreement.
- B. SSA and DOL will not use the data to extract information concerning individuals therein for any purpose not specified by this agreement.
- C. SSA and DOL will not create a permanent separate file or system of records consisting solely of information concerning those beneficiaries who are involved in this specific match.
- D. SSA and DOL will not duplicate or disseminate the data within or outside their respective agencies without the written permission of the other agency, except as required by law. DOL and SSA will not give such permission unless the law requires disclosure or the disclosure is essential to the matching program. For such permission, the agency requesting permission must specify in writing what data they are 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-06-16, Protection of Sensitive Agency Information (June 23, 2006); 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 contractors and agents.

#### A. Incident Reporting

If either SSA or DOL experiences an incident involving the loss or breach of PII provided by SSA or DOL under the terms of this agreement, they will follow the incident reporting guidelines issued by OMB. In the event of a reportable incident under OMB guidance involving PII, the agency experiencing the incident is responsible for following its established procedures, including notification to the proper organizations (e.g., United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team, the agency's privacy office). In addition, the agency experiencing the incident (e.g., electronic or paper) will notify the other agency's Information Security Contact named in this agreement. If DOL is unable to speak with the SSA Information Security Contact within one hour or if for some other reason notifying the SSA Information Security Contact is not practicable (e.g., it is outside of the normal business hours), DOL will call SSA's National Network Service Center toll free at 1-877-697-4889. If SSA is unable to speak with DOL's Information Security Contact within one hour, SSA will contact DCMWC's Deputy Information Security Officer at (301) 306-6693, and will send an email to [zzowcpsecurity@dol.gov](mailto:zzowcpsecurity@dol.gov).

#### B. Breach Notification

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

#### C. Administrative Safeguards

SSA will restrict access to the data matched and to any data created by the match to authorized employees and officials 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. 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 and DOL 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 and DOL will strictly limit authorization to those electronic data areas necessary for the authorized analyst to perform his or her official duties.

#### F. Application of Policy and Procedures

SSA and DOL 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 and DOL will comply with these guidelines and any subsequent revisions.

#### G. Onsite Inspection

SSA and DOL have the right to monitor the other party's compliance with FISMA and OMB M-06-16 requirements and to make onsite inspections of the other party for purposes of auditing compliance, if necessary, during the lifetime of this agreement or of any extension of this agreement.

### **XII. Comptroller General Access**

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

### **XIII. Remote Terminal Access**

Neither SSA nor DOL will have remote terminal access to the databases of the other agency under this agreement.

### **XIV. 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.

### **XV. Duration, Modification, and Termination**

#### A. Effective Date

The effective date of this agreement is May 25, 2017 provided that the following notice periods have lapsed: 30 days from the date SSA publishes a computer matching notice in the FR; 40 days from the date of the matching program notice that is sent to the Congressional committees of jurisdiction under 5 U.S.C. § 552a(o)(2)(A); and 40 days from the date of the matching program notice that is sent to OMB.

## 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.

## **XVI. Persons to Contact**

### A. The SSA contacts are:

#### Matching Programs

Donald Scott, Government Information Specialist  
Office of Privacy and Disclosure  
Office of the General Counsel  
Social Security Administration  
6401 Security Boulevard, 617 Altmeyer Building  
Baltimore, MD 21235  
Telephone: (410) 965-8850/Fax: (410) 966-0769  
Email: [Donald.Scott@ssa.gov](mailto:Donald.Scott@ssa.gov)

### Systems Operations

Michelle Anderson, Branch Chief  
DBIAE/Data Exchange and Verification Branch  
Office of IT Programmatic Business Support  
Office of Systems  
3108 (3-D-1) Robert M. Ball Building  
6401 Security Boulevard,  
Baltimore, MD 21235  
Telephone: (410) 965-5943  
Fax: (410) 966-3147  
Email: [Michelle.J.Anderson@ssa.gov](mailto:Michelle.J.Anderson@ssa.gov)

### Information Security Issues

Michael G. Johnson, Director  
Division of Compliance and Oversight  
Office of Information Security  
Office of Systems  
Social Security Administration  
6401 Security Boulevard, 3827 Annex Building  
Baltimore, MD 21235  
Telephone: (410) 965-0266/Fax: (410) 597-0845  
Email: [Michael.G.Johnson@ssa.gov](mailto:Michael.G.Johnson@ssa.gov)

### Project Coordinator

Aileen Flynn  
Office of Data Exchange  
Office of Data Exchange and Policy Publications  
6401 Security Boulevard, 4-B-9-E Annex Building  
Baltimore, MD 21235  
Telephone: (410) 965-3091  
Email: [Aileen.Flynn@ssa.gov](mailto:Aileen.Flynn@ssa.gov)

B. The DOL contacts are:

### Matching Programs

Erica Marcoux  
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs  
Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation  
Branch of Standards, Regulations and Procedures  
Room N-3464, 200 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20210  
Telephone: (202) 596-0655/Fax: (202) 693-1395  
Email: [Marcoux.Erica@dol.gov](mailto:Marcoux.Erica@dol.gov)

Information Security Issues

John Scott, Section Chief  
Information Security Officer  
System Management Section  
Federal Black Lung Program  
200 Constitution Ave. N.W.,  
Room C-3517  
Washington, DC 20210  
Telephone: 202-343-5935/Fax: (202) 693-1395  
Email: [Scott.John@dol.gov](mailto:Scott.John@dol.gov)

Systems Operations

Anthony Walker  
Deputy Information Security Office  
System Management Section  
Federal Black Lung Program  
200 Constitution Ave. N.W.  
Room N-3454  
Washington, DC 20210  
Telephone: 202-343-2004/Fax: (202) 693-1395  
Email: [walker.anthony@dol.gov](mailto:walker.anthony@dol.gov)

**XVII. Integration Clause**

This agreement 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 be in conflict with it.