



BLBA BULLETIN NO. 12-05

Issue Date: February 15, 2012

Expiration Date: Indefinite

Subject: Social Security Administration (SSA) Revision of the Form SSA 581
(Authorization to Obtain Earnings Data from the Social Security Administration).

Background: The Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC) will now use the revised Form SSA-581 to request itemized earning records from SSA effective immediately. The revised Form SSA-581 was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 2011.

All district offices have been provided SSA-581 Forms. The Denver district office is exempt because they were provided the latest Form SSA-581 in January 2012. Your district office must immediately begin to use the latest version of the Form SSA-581 to request itemized earning statements of miners. Effective 60 days from February 6, 2012, SSA will no longer accept any alternate version of the form known as Authorization to Obtain Earnings Data from the Social Security Administration (Form SSA-581) with an edition date prior to 2011.

The notable Form revisions include:

- New Mailing Address (Changed from SSA – Data Operations Center, P.O. Box 1040, Wilkes Barre, PA 18767-1040 to SSA – Division of Business Services, P.O. 33011, Baltimore, MD 21290-3011).
- Revised Privacy Act Statement.
- Updated Paperwork Reduction Act Statement.
- Minor Cosmetic Changes.

SSA has also provided the district offices with the following information: Follow-up Chart and SSA's Requirements for Release of Information. The Follow-up Chart provides phone numbers of SSA personnel to determine the status of an overdue request. The SSA's Requirements for Release of Information will aid DOL personnel in reducing the number of SSA-581 forms returned to the district offices due to errors.

All district offices should print the forms as needed to maintain an adequate supply for each location. If a district office changes its mailing address and a change is required to the address field the National Office will notify SSA that a revision is needed so that SSA will make the change and prepare a new form for the appropriate district office. The Form SSA-581 is being prepared for use in CORS, but until the form has been tested and put into production the preprinted PDF supplied by SSA must be used. PDF copies of the forms have been distributed to each district director.

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Attachment: SSA Follow-Up Chart and SSA's Requirements for Release of Information.

References: Social Security Administration.

Applicability: Appropriate DCMWC and contract personnel.

Please contact Kathleen Smith in BSRP at smith.kathleen@dol.gov if you have any questions.

Disposition: Retain this Bulletin until its expiration date or its incorporation into the Black Lung Benefits Procedure Manual.



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Distribution: All supervisors, claims examiners, workers' compensation specialists and workers' compensation assistants