

I. Abstract

Executive Order 12862 (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12862.pdf>) directs Federal agencies to provide services to the public that matches or exceeds the best services available in the private sector. In order to work continuously to ensure that its programs are effective and meet its customers' needs, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereafter "USPTO" or "the Agency") proposes the following generic clearance to collect qualitative feedback on its service delivery. Qualitative feedback refers to information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but is not in the form of statistical surveys which yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study.

The Agency will collect, analyze, and interpret information gathered to identify strengths and weaknesses of current services. Based on feedback received, the Agency will identify operational changes needed to improve programs and services. The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: Timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery.

Collecting feedback will allow for the Agency to have a pulse on customer satisfaction. This feedback will provide for ongoing, collaborative, and actionable communication between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders and allow it to gather feedback in an efficient and timely manner. The information collected from Agency customers and stakeholders will help ensure users have an opportunity to convey their experience with USPTO programs. This information collection will also provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences, and expectations, which will allow the Agency to focus its attention on areas where communication, training, or changes in operations may be necessary.

This information collection covers a variety of methods used by USPTO to obtain qualitative feedback from the public. The estimated number of annual responses and burden hours being requested are based on the number of information collections we expect to conduct over the period of this clearance. Each specific request for clearance under this generic information collection will detail estimates for the following information: Respondent types, number of respondents, number of responses, time per response, burden hours, and associated costs.

II. Method of Collection

The methods of collection include, but are not limited to, in-person surveys, telephone interviews, questionnaires, mail and email survey, web-based products, focus groups, and comment cards.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0080.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Private Sector; Individuals or Households; State, Local or Tribal governments; Federal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 90,000 respondents.

Estimated Time per Response: Varied, dependent upon the data collection method used. The average response time will be 10 minutes per response.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 15,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent (Hourly) Cost Burden: \$2,989,650.

The estimated annual respondent costs are based on the number of estimated hours for the information collections we expect to conduct over the requested period of this clearance. The total hourly cost burden (\$199.31) is determined by using a combined rate of attorney, paralegal, and pro se wages. The USPTO uses the mean rate for attorneys in private firms, estimated at \$400 per hour, from data published in the 2019 Report of the Economic Survey from the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA).¹ The hourly rate for paralegals is estimated at \$145 from data published in the 2018 Utilization and Compensation Survey by the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA).² The pro se wage rate uses the mean hourly wage (\$52.93) for physical scientists according to the data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics program (occupational code 19-2099).³

Estimated Total Annual (Non-hour) Respondent Cost Burden: \$0. There are no capital start-up, maintenance, postage, recordkeeping costs, or any other fees associated with this information collection.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

IV. Request for Comments

The USPTO is soliciting public comments to:

¹ <https://www.aipla.org/detail/journal-issue/2019-report-of-the-economic-survey>.

² <https://www.nala.org/paralegals/research-and-survey-findings>.

³ <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes192099.htm>.

(a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

All comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. USPTO will include or summarize each comment in the request to OMB to approve this information collection. Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in a comment, be aware that the entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask in your comment to withhold personal identifying information from public view, USPTO cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Kimberly Hardy,

Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

[Docket No: CFPB-2021-0009]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; Emergency Processing Request

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) is proposing a new information collection titled, "Interim Final Rule on Debt Collection Practices in Connection with the Global COVID-19 Pandemic."

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the PRA (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507(j)). Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by May 3, 2021. A standard PRA clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 21, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by the title of the information collection, and docket number (see above), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Email:* PRA_Comments@cfpb.gov. Include Docket No. CFPB-2021-0009 in the subject line of the email

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Comment intake, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Attention: PRA Office), 1700 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20552. Please note that due to circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau discourages the submission of comments by mail, hand delivery, or courier. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. In general, all comments will become public records, including any personal information provided. Sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or social security numbers, should not be included.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Documentation prepared in support of this information collection request is available at www.regulations.gov. Requests for additional information should be directed to Suzan Muslu, Data Governance Program Manager, at (202) 435-9267, or email: CFPB_PRA@cfpb.gov. If you require this document in an alternative electronic format, please contact CFPB_Accessibility@cfpb.gov. Please do not submit comments to this mailbox.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Interim Final Rule on Debt Collection Practices in Connection with the Global COVID-19 Pandemic.

OMB Control Number: 3170-XXXX.

Type of Review: New collection (Request for a new OMB control number).

Affected Public: Private sector (banks and credit unions).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,000.

Abstract: The Bureau is issuing an interim final rule to amend Regulation F, which implements the Fair Debt

Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and currently contains the procedures for State application for exemption from the provisions of the FDCPA. The interim final rule addresses certain debt collector conduct associated with an eviction moratorium issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The amendments prohibit debt collectors from taking certain covered eviction actions unless the debt collectors provide written notice to certain consumers of their protections under the CDC temporary eviction moratorium and prohibit misrepresentations about consumers' eligibility for protection under such moratorium. This moratorium is in place now and currently set to expire at the end of June. The Bureau believes there is a potential for public harm if consumers are not informed of their rights under the moratorium, therefore the Bureau is requesting emergency approval of this information collection request.

The Bureau requests OMB approval of this request by May 3, 2021.

Contemporaneously with this request for emergency processing, the Bureau is also initiating standard clearance procedures by publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** allowing the public 60 days to comment on this collection of information. Accordingly, this request will also be resubmitted to OMB under standard clearance procedures.

Request for Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Bureau, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the Bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methods and the assumptions used; (c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 16, 2021.

Suzan Muslu,

Data Governance Program Manager, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

[FR Doc. 2021-08304 Filed 4-21-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-AM-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Certificate of Alternate Compliance for USS FRANK E. PETERSON JR. (DDG 121)

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Issuance of Certificate of Alternate Compliance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Navy hereby announces that a Certificate of Alternate Compliance has been issued for USS FRANK E. PETERSON JR. (DDG 121). Due to the special construction and purpose of this vessel, the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (DAJAG)(Admiralty and Maritime Law) has determined it is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot comply fully with the navigation lights provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this notice is to warn mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

DATES: This Certificate of Alternate Compliance is effective April 22, 2021 and is applicable beginning April 16, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lieutenant Commander Darren E. Myers, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Admiralty Attorney, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Admiralty and Maritime Law Division (Code 11), 1322 Patterson Ave., SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066, 202-685-5040, or admiralty@navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

Executive Order 11964 of January 19, 1977 and 33 U.S.C. 1605 provide that the requirements of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), as to the number, position, range, or arc of visibility of lights or shapes, as well as to the disposition and characteristics of sound-signaling appliances, shall not apply to a vessel or class of vessels of the Navy where the Secretary of the Navy shall find and certify that, by reason of special construction or purpose, it is not possible for such vessel(s) to comply fully with the provisions without interfering with the special function of the vessel(s). Notice of issuance of a Certificate of Alternate Compliance must be made in the **Federal Register**.

In accordance with 33 U.S.C. 1605, the DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law), under authority delegated by the