

Dated: May 18, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2022-11071 Filed 5-23-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-T-2022-0017]

USPTO To Accelerate Transition To Issuance of Electronic Trademark Registration Certificates; Issuing Next Certificates on May 24, 2022

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is accelerating the transition date for issuance of electronic trademark registration certificates to May 24, 2022. On and after that date, the electronic registration certificate will be the official registration certificate. Because of a nationwide shortage of the specialized paper, and a recent vendor disruption, the USPTO will not issue registration certificates between May 10 and May 23, 2022, while the USPTO transitions to this new program. The new program will make the issuance of registration certificates more resilient. After the USPTO begins issuing electronic registration certificates, trademark owners will have the option to order paper “presentation” copies. Registrants will also continue to be able to order certified copies of their trademark registrations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Cain, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy, USPTO, at 571-272-8946 or TMFRNotices@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO published a notice in the **Federal Register** on May 2, 2022 (87 FR 25623), notifying the public that it would begin issuing trademark registration certificates electronically via the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system on June 7, 2022. The USPTO is accelerating the transition date for issuance of electronic trademark registration certificates to May 24, 2022. The new date accelerates the benefits of the electronic certificates, quickly adjusts for a paper vendor disruption that recently presented, and improves the resiliency of the USPTO to issue trademark registrations going forward.

The USPTO will not issue registration certificates between May 10 and May 23, 2022, while it transitions to the new, electronic process. In the course of addressing the issue caused by the paper shortage, the status of some applications was inadvertently changed to registered on May 10. The USPTO corrected the status of those applications to pending on May 11.

As stated in the May 2, 2022 notice, upon implementation of electronic trademark registration certificates, all registration certificates issued by the USPTO will be made under the electronic signature of the Director and with a digital seal, which will authenticate the registration. The USPTO will upload the official registration certificate to the TSDR database, and an electronic notice will be emailed to the trademark owner and all email addresses of record with a link to access the certificate upon issuance. Trademark owners will be able to use the emailed link to view, download, and print a complete copy of the registration certificate at no charge at any time. Trademark owners who file an initial application on or after the implementation date will be able to order presentation copies for \$25 per copy through the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Trademark owners who filed an initial application before the implementation date will be able to order one presentation copy for free. Trademark owners will continue to be able to order certified copies of their trademark registration for a fee. The certified copy certifies the status and title of the registration and includes the signature of an authorized certifying officer.

Katherine K. Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2022-11196 Filed 5-23-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[OMB Control No. 0651-NEW; Docket No. PTO-C-2022-0018]

Information Collection; Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation)

AGENCY: Department of Commerce, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Agency) as

part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, is announcing an opportunity for public comment on a new proposed collection of information by the Agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on new collection proposed by the Agency.

DATES: Submit comments on or before: July 25, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments identified by Information Collection 0651-NEW, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments to <https://www.regulations.gov>, will be posted to the docket unchanged.

Mail: Kimberly Hardy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. 0651-NEW, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation).

Instructions: Please submit comments only and cite Information Collection 0651-NEW, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation), in all correspondence related to this collection. To confirm receipt of your comment(s), please check [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), approximately 2-3 business days after submission to verify posting (except allow 30 days for posting of comments submitted by mail).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Charles Thomas, Customer Experience Administrator for Trademarks, and/or Toni Krasnic, Customer Experience Administrator for Patents, via email to Charles.Thomas1@uspto.gov and/or Toni.Krasnic@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Under the PRA, (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520) Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. “Collection of information” is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes Agency requests

or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, USPTO is publishing notice of the proposed collection of information set forth in this document.

Whether seeking a loan, Social Security benefits, veteran's benefits, or other services provided by the Federal Government, individuals and businesses expect Government customer services to be efficient and intuitive, just like services from leading private-sector organizations. Yet the 2016 American Consumer Satisfaction Index and the 2017 Forrester Federal Customer Experience Index show that, on average, Government services lag nine percentage points behind the private sector.

A modern, streamlined, and responsive customer experience means: Raising governmentwide customer experience to the average of the private sector service industry; developing indicators for high-impact Federal programs to monitor progress towards excellent customer experience and mature digital services; and providing the structure (including increasing transparency) and resources to ensure customer experience is a focal point for agency leadership. To support this, OMB Circular A-11 Section 280 established governmentwide standards for mature customer experience organizations in government and measurement. To enable Federal programs to deliver the experience taxpayers deserve, they must undertake three general categories of activities: Conduct ongoing customer research, gather and share customer feedback, and test services and digital products.

These data collection efforts may be either qualitative or quantitative in nature or may consist of mixed methods. Additionally, data may be collected via a variety of means, including but not limited to electronic or social media, direct or indirect observation (*i.e.*, in person, video, and audio collections), interviews, questionnaires, surveys, and focus groups. USPTO will limit its inquiries to data collections that solicit strictly voluntary opinions or responses. Steps will be taken to ensure anonymity of respondents in each activity covered by this request.

The results of the data collected will be used to improve the delivery of Federal services and programs. It will include the creation of personas, customer journey maps, and reports and summaries of customer feedback data and user insights. It will also provide governmentwide data on customer experience that can be displayed on performance.gov to help build transparency and accountability of Federal programs to the customers they serve.

Method of Collection

USPTO will collect this information by electronic means when possible, as well as by mail, fax, telephone, technical discussions, and in-person interviews. USPTO may also utilize observational techniques to collect this information.

Data

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: New.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Affected Public: Collections will be targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future. For the purposes of this request, "customers" are individuals, businesses, and organizations that interact with a Federal Government agency or program, either directly or via a Federal contractor. This could include individuals or households; businesses or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; State, local or tribal governments; Federal government; and universities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,001,550.

Estimated Time per Response: Varied, dependent upon the data collection method used. The possible response time to complete a questionnaire or survey may be 3 minutes or up to 1.5 hours to participate in an interview.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 101,125.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,737,454.

C. Public Comments

USPTO invites comments on: (a) 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) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Kimberly Hardy,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-11149 Filed 5-23-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Patents External Quality Survey

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. The USPTO invites comment on this information collection renewal, which helps the USPTO assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on March 15, 2022 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

Title: Patents External Quality Survey.
OMB Control Number: 0651-0057.

Needs and Uses: The USPTO's Patents External Quality Survey is an instrument designed to measure opinions about the services that USPTO provides its patent application customers. The results from this voluntary survey will assist the USPTO in guiding improvements and enhancements in the future. The USPTO conducts the Patents External Quality Survey as part of its quality improvement efforts under E.O. 14058, Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery to