

## II. Method of Collection

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

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0693–0078.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission. Revision.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; first responders; weather forecasters; members of the media; water, power, transportation, and communications infrastructure operators; businesses or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; State, local or tribal government; Federal government; Standards-making bodies; Universities.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 25,000.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Varied, dependent upon the data collection method used. The possible response time to complete a questionnaire may be 15 minutes or 2 hours to participate in an interview.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 18,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

## IV. Request for Comments

NIST 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 that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying

information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2022–05417 Filed 3–14–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–13–P**

## 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

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651–0057 (Patents External Quality Survey). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the information collection to OMB.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 16, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information:

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include '0651–0057 comment' in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- *Mail:* Kimberly Hardy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to David Fitzpatrick, Management Analyst, Office of Patent Quality Assurance, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; by telephone at 571–272–0525; or by email at [David.Fitzpatrick@uspto.gov](mailto:David.Fitzpatrick@uspto.gov), with “0651–0057 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this

information collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) 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 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 Rebuild Trust in Government* (Dec. 13, 2021). This survey narrows the focus of customer satisfaction to examination quality and uses a longitudinal, rotating panel design to assess changes in customer perceptions and to identify key areas for examiner training and opportunities for improvement. The USPTO surveys patent agents, attorneys, and other individuals from large domestic corporations (including those with 500+ employees), small and medium-size businesses, independent inventors, and universities and other non-profit research organizations. This survey does not include foreign entities.

The USPTO random sample used in this survey is drawn from the Patent Application and Location Management (PALM) database. The sample population is drawn from the top filing firms and entities that have filed more than 5 patent applications in a 12-month period. This ongoing survey is generally conducted twice a year. USPTO uses a rotating panel design where participants will take the survey twice in back-to-back survey periods. Half the participants in each survey period are new, completing the survey for the first time, and half are returning to complete the survey for a second time. This design allows a precise measurement of changes in customer experience over time.

The Patents External Quality Survey is primarily a web-based survey, although respondents can also complete the survey via paper and mail if they prefer. The content of both versions is identical. Potential respondents are sent either an email or mailed pre-survey letter, depending on noted preferences for contact. At the beginning of each survey period, respondents are provided instructions for accessing and completing the survey electronically. After a specified response period, a survey packet containing the

questionnaire, a separate cover letter prepared by the Deputy Commissioner for Patents, and a postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelope are mailed to all sample members that have not yet submitted a response. Sampled members receiving a paper survey can still complete the survey electronically if they prefer. Reminder/thank you postcards and telephone calls are used to encourage response from sample members.

#### Method of Collection

The survey may be submitted electronically or in paper form via postal mail.

#### II. Data

OMB Control Number: 0651-0057.

Form(s):

- PTO/2325 (Patents External Quality Survey).

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

Affected Public: Private sector.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 1,875 respondents.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 3,100 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public between 2 minutes (0.03 hours) and 10 minutes (.17 hours) to complete a response in this information collection. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, answer the survey prompts, and submit the completed request to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 444 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Hourly Cost Burden: \$193,140.

TABLE 1—TOTAL BURDEN HOURS AND HOURLY COSTS TO PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONDENTS

Item No.	Item	Estimated annual respondents	Responses per respondent	Estimated annual responses	Estimated time for response (hours)	Estimated burden (hour/year)	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Estimated annual respondent cost burden
		(a)	(b)	(a) × (b) = (c)	(d)	(c) × (d) = (e)	(f)	(e) × (f) = (g)
1 .....	Patents External Quality Survey (One survey within a single year).	1,250 .....	1	1,250	0.17 (10 minutes)	213	\$435	\$92,655
2 .....	Patents External Quality Survey (Two surveys within same year).	625 .....	2	1,250	0.17 (10 minutes)	213	435	92,655
3 .....	Non-Response Follow-up Survey Card.	Same respondents as item 1 and 2.	1	600	0.03 (2 minutes) ...	18	435	7,830
	Total .....	1,875 .....	.....	3,100	.....	444	.....	193,140

<sup>1</sup> 2021 Report of the Economic Survey, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA); pg F-27. The USPTO uses the average billing rate for intellectual property attorneys in private firms which is \$435 per hour. (<https://www.aipla.org/home/news-publications/economic-survey>).

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden: \$0. There are no capital start-up, maintenance costs, recordkeeping costs, filing fees, or postage costs associated with this information collection. The USPTO covers the costs of all survey materials and provides postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for the surveys that are returned by mail.

#### III. Request for Comments

The USPTO is soliciting public comments to:

(a) Evaluate whether the 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 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 personally identifiable information (PII) in a comment, be aware that the entire comment—including PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask in your comment to withhold PII 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.

[FR Doc. 2022-05472 Filed 3-14-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### Department of the Army

[Docket ID: USA-2021-HQ-0015]

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** 30-Day information collection notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 14, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Angela Duncan, 571-372-7574, [whs.mc-](mailto:whs.mc-)