

will be limited to a total time of three (3) minutes. Written comments should be received by Ms. Susan Holmes by Tuesday, December 9, 2025 to provide sufficient time for Board review. Written comments received after the deadline will be distributed to the Board, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

**Special Accommodations:** The Board meeting is virtually accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Susan Holmes by Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

The Board, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by Section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (Pub. L. 94-461, 33 U.S.C. 1128). The Board advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the Act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to them for review and advice.

**Matters To Be Considered:** Board members will discuss and vote on a couple of reports regarding program evaluation, the selection of new committee membership, and other topics that need Board feedback: <https://seagrants.noaa.gov/About/Advisory-Board>.

**David Holst,**

*Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2025-20487 Filed 11-20-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KA-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Legal Processes

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereafter “USPTO” or “Agency”) 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 comments on the information collection renewal of 0651-0046, which helps the USPTO assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the reporting burden to the public. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on July 8, 2025, during a 60-day comment period (90 FR 30053). This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before December 22, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for this information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website, <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 and entering either the title of the information collection or the OMB Control Number, 0651-0046. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- This information collection request may be viewed at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce, USPTO information collections currently under review by OMB.

- **Email:** [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651-0046 information request” in the subject line of the message.

- **Mail:** Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- **Telephone:** Kyu Lee, Office of General Law, 571-272-3000.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Legal Processes.

**OMB Control Number:** 0651-0046.

**Abstract:** This collection covers information requirements related to civil actions and claims involving current and former employees of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The rules for these legal processes may be found under 37 CFR part 104, which outlines procedures for service of process, demands for employee testimony and production of documents in legal proceedings, reports of unauthorized testimony, employee indemnification,

and filing claims against the USPTO under the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 2672) and the corresponding Department of Justice regulations (28 CFR part 14). The public may also petition the USPTO Office of General Counsel under 37 CFR 104.3 to waive or suspend these rules in extraordinary cases.

The procedures under 37 CFR part 104 ensure that service of process intended for current and former employees of the USPTO is handled properly. The USPTO will accept service of process only for an employee acting in an official capacity. This collection is necessary so that respondents or their representatives can serve a summons or complaint on the USPTO, demand employee testimony and documents related to a legal proceeding, or file a claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Respondents may also petition the USPTO to waive or suspend these rules. This collection is also necessary so that current and former USPTO employees may properly forward service and demands to the Office of General Counsel, report unauthorized testimony, and request indemnification. The USPTO covers current employees as respondents under this information collection even though their responses do not require approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act. In those instances where both current and former employees may respond to the USPTO, the agency estimates that the number of respondents will be low.

For filing claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act, the public may use Standard Form 95 “Claim for Damage, Injury, or Death,” which is provided by the Department of Justice. Since the publication of the 60-day **Federal Register** notice, the USPTO has updated the postage costs associated with this information collection to reflect correct postage usage and rates, therefore the non-hourly cost burden for this information collection is revised from \$1,379 to \$6,002.

#### Forms:

- Standard Form 95 (Claim for Damage, Injury, or Death).

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

**Affected Public:** Private sector.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Required to obtain or retain benefits.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:** 309 respondents.

**Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 309 responses.

**Estimated Time per Response:** The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the

public approximately 5 minutes (0.08 hours) to 6 hours to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 131 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden:* \$6,002.

**Justin Isaac,**

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

[FR Doc. 2025–20516 Filed 11–20–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–16–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; Patent Cooperation Treaty

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collections; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** 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 comments on this information collection renewal of 0651–0021 (Patent Cooperation Treaty), 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 June 23, 2025 during a 60-day comment period (90 FR 26555). This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comment.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for this information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website, [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 and entering either the title of the information collection or the OMB Control Number, 0651–0021. Do not submit Confidential Business

Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

• This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce, USPTO information collections currently under review by OMB.

• *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651–0021 information request” in the subject line of the message.

• *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

• *Telephone:* Rafael Bacares, Senior Legal Advisor, International Patent Legal Administration, 571–272–3276.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

*Title:* Patent Cooperation Treaty.

*OMB Control Number:* 0651–0021.

*Needs and Uses:* This collection of information is required by the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), which became operational in June 1978 and is administered by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland. The provisions of the PCT have been implemented by the United States in part IV of title 35 of the U.S. Code (chapters 35–37) and subpart C of title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations (37 CFR 1.401–1.499). The purpose of the PCT is to provide a standardized filing format and procedure that allows an applicant to seek protection for an invention in several countries by filing one international application in one location, in one language, and paying one initial set of fees.

The USPTO acts as the Receiving Office (RO/US) for international applications filed by residents and nationals of the United States. These applicants send most of their correspondence directly to the USPTO, but they may also file certain documents directly with the IB. The USPTO serves as an International Search Authority (ISA) to perform searches and issue international search reports (ISR) and the written opinions of international applications. The USPTO also issues international preliminary reports on patentability (IPRP Chapter II) when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA).

The RO reviews the application and, if it contains all of the necessary information, assigns a filing date to the

application. The RO maintains the home copy of the international application and forwards the record copy of the application to the IB and the search copy to the ISA. The IB maintains the record copy of all international applications and publishes them 18 months after the earliest priority date, which is the earliest date for which a benefit is claimed. The ISA performs a search to determine whether there is any prior art relevant to the claims of the international application and will issue an international search report and written opinion as to whether each claim is novel, involves an inventive step, and is industrially applicable. The ISA then forwards the international search report and written opinion to the applicant and the IB. The IB will normally publish the application and search report 18 months after the priority date, unless early publication is requested by the applicant. Until international publication, no third person or national or regional office is allowed access to the international patent application unless so requested or authorized by the applicant. If the applicant wishes to withdraw the application (and does so before international publication), international publication does not take place.

Under optional Chapter II of the Treaty, an applicant who has filed an international application in an RO must file a Demand for an international preliminary examination of the application by an IPEA, such as the USPTO. A Demand, including the form and required fees, must be filed within a prescribed time period. Usually, a Demand is filed with amendments and/or arguments under PCT Article 34 addressing objections raised in the Written Opinion of the International Search Authority (WOISA). The International preliminary examination is a second evaluation of the potential patentability of the claimed invention (usually the claims have been amended), using the same standards on which the written opinion of the ISA was based. A copy of the examination report is sent to the applicant and to the IB. The IB then forwards a copy of the examination report to each Office elected by the applicant.

The information in this collection is used by the public to submit a patent application under the PCT and by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), to fulfill its obligation to process, search, and examine the application as directed by the treaty.

*Forms:* (IB = International Bureau; IPEA = International Preliminary Examination Authority; RO = Receiving Office; SB = Specimen Book)