

Agency. An applicant who has been charged criminally or civilly (e.g., issued a Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) or Notice of Permit Sanction) for any HMS-related violation will not be considered for participation in the shark research fishery. In addition, applicants who were selected to carry an observer in the previous 2 years for any HMS fishery, but failed to contact NMFS to arrange the placement of an observer as required per 50 CFR 635.7, will not be considered for participation in the 2014 shark research fishery. Applicants who were selected to carry an observer in the previous 2 years for any HMS fishery and failed to comply with all the observer regulations per 50 CFR 635.7 will also not be considered. Exceptions will be made for vessels that were selected for HMS observer coverage but did not fish in the quarter when selected and thus did not require an observer. Applicants who do not possess a valid USCG safety inspection decal when the application is submitted will not be considered. Applicants who have been non-compliant with any of the HMS observer program regulations in the previous 2 years, as described above, may be eligible for future participation in shark research fishery activities by demonstrating 2 subsequent years of compliance with observer regulations at 50 CFR 635.7.

Selection Process

The HMS Management Division will review all submitted applications and develop a list of qualified applicants from those applications that are deemed complete. A qualified applicant is an applicant that has submitted a complete application by the deadline (see **DATES**) and has met the selection criteria listed above. Qualified applicants are eligible to be selected to participate in the shark research fishery for 2014. The HMS Management Division will provide the list of qualified applicants without identifying information to the SEFSC. The SEFSC will then evaluate the list of qualified applicants and, based on the temporal and spatial needs of the research objectives, the availability of observers, the availability of qualified applicants, and the available quota for a given year, will randomly select qualified applicants to conduct the prescribed research. Where there are multiple qualified applicants that meet the criteria, permittees will be randomly selected through a lottery system. If a public meeting is deemed necessary, NMFS will announce details of a public selection meeting in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice.

Once the selection process is complete, NMFS will notify the selected applicants and issue the shark research fishery permits. The shark research fishery permits will be valid only in calendar year 2014. If needed, NMFS will communicate with the shark research fishery permit holders to arrange a captain's meeting to discuss the research objectives and protocols. The shark research fishery permit holders must contact the NMFS observer coordinator to arrange the placement of a NMFS-approved observer for each shark research trip.

A shark research fishery permit will only be valid for the vessel and owner(s) and terms and conditions listed on the permit, and, thus, cannot be transferred to another vessel or owner(s). Issuance of a shark research permit does not guarantee that the permit holder will be assigned a NMFS-approved observer on any particular trip. Rather, issuance indicates that a vessel may be issued a NMFS-approved observer for a particular trip, and on such trips, may be allowed to harvest Atlantic sharks, including sandbar sharks, in excess of the retention limits described in 50 CFR 635.24(a). These retention limits will be based on available quota, number of vessels participating in the 2014 shark research fishery, the research objectives set forth by the shark board, the extent of other restrictions placed on the vessel, and may vary by vessel and/or location. When not operating under the auspices of the shark research fishery, the vessel would still be able to land LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks subject to existing retention limits on trips without a NMFS-approved observer. The shark research permit may be revoked or modified at any time and does not confer the right to engage in activities beyond those listed on the shark research fishery permit.

NMFS annually invites commercial shark permit holders (directed and incidental) to submit an application to participate in the shark research fishery. Permit applications can be found on the HMS Management Division's Web site at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/index.htm> or by calling (301) 427-8503. Final decisions on the issuance of a shark research fishery permit will depend on the submission of all required information by the deadline (see **DATES**), and NMFS' review of applicant information as outlined above. The 2014 shark research fishery will start after the opening of the shark fishery and under available quotas as published in a separate **Federal Register** final rule.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 18, 2013.

Kelly Denit,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-28101 Filed 11-21-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed new Privacy Act system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) gives notice of a proposed new system of records entitled "COMMERCE/PAT-TM-24 Background Investigations." We invite the public to comment on the system announced in this publication.

DATES: Written comments must be received no later than December 23, 2013. The proposed system of records will be effective on December 23, 2013, unless the USPTO receives comments that would result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* Joseph.Burns@uspto.gov. Include "Privacy Act PAT-TM-24 comment" in the subject line of the message.
- *Fax:* (571) 273-1537, marked to the attention of Joseph Burns, Office of Security and Safety, Office of Administrative Services.
- *Mail:* Joseph Burns, Director, Office of Security and Safety, Office of Administrative Services, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

All comments received will be available for public inspection at the Federal rulemaking portal located at www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Burns, Director, Office of Security and Safety, Office of Administrative Services, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, (571) 272-1537.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is giving notice of a new

system of records that is subject to the Privacy Act of 1974. This system of records maintains information on individuals who undergo a personnel background investigation for the purpose of determining suitability for USPTO employment, contractor employee fitness, eligibility for access to classified information, and/or access to a federal facility or information technology system.

The proposed new system of records, "COMMERCE/PAT-TM-24 Background Investigations," is published in its entirety below.

COMMERCE/PAT-TM-24

SYSTEM NAME:

Background Investigations.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

None for the system. However, items or records within the system may have national security/foreign policy classifications up through Secret.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Office of Security and Safety, Office of Administrative Services, United States Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Applicants and employees or government contractors, experts, instructors, and consultants who undergo a personnel background investigation for the purpose of determining suitability for USPTO employment, contractor employee fitness, eligibility for access to classified information, and/or access to a federal facility or information technology system.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

a. Name; address; date and place of birth; Social Security Number; citizenship; physical characteristics; employment and military service history; credit references and credit records; education; medical history; arrest records; Federal employee relatives; dates and purpose of visits to foreign countries; passport numbers; names of spouses, relatives, references, and personal associates; activities; and security; and suitability materials. This system does not include records of EEO investigations. Such records are covered in a government-wide system noticed by the Office of Personnel Management and now the responsibility of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

b. Summaries of personal and third party interviews conducted during the course of the background investigation.

c. Records of personnel background investigations conducted by other Federal agencies.

d. Records of adjudicative and HSPD 12 decisions by other Federal agencies, including clearance determinations and/or polygraph results.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Executive Orders 10450, 11478, 12065; 5 U.S.C. 301 and 7531-7533; 15 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*; 28 U.S.C. 533-535; 44 U.S.C. 3101; and Equal Employment Act of 1972.

Executive Orders 9397, as amended by 13478, 10450, 10577, 10865, 12968, and 13470; Section 2, Civil Service Act of 1883; Public Laws 82-298 and 92-261; Title 5, U.S.C., sections 1303, 1304, 3301, 7301, and 9101; Title 22, U.S.C., section 2519; Title 42 U.S.C. sections 1874(b)(3), 2165, 2201, and 2455; Title 50 U.S.C. section 435b(e); Title 5 CFR sections 731, 732 and 736; Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD 12) and OMB Circular No. A-130.

PURPOSE(S):

The records in this system may be used to provide investigatory information for determinations concerning whether an individual is suitable or fit for agency employment; eligible for logical and physical access to federally controlled facilities and information systems; eligible to hold sensitive positions (including but not limited to eligibility for access to classified information); fit to perform work for or on behalf of the agency as a contractor employee; qualified for government service; qualified to perform contractual services for the agency; and loyal to the United States. The system is also used to document such determinations and to otherwise comply with mandates and Executive Orders.

These records may also be used to locate individuals for personnel research.

The records may be used to help streamline and make more efficient the investigations and adjudications processes generally.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

The USPTO will use the information contained in this system of records to conduct background investigations on applicants and employees.

Information concerning nominees, members and former members of public advisory committees may be disclosed: (a) To OMB in connection with its committee management responsibilities;

(b) to other Federal agencies which have joint responsibility for advisory committees or which receive or utilize advice of the committees; and (c) to a Federal, state or local agency, private organization or individual as necessary to obtain information in connection with a decision concerning appointment or reappointment of an individual to committee membership.

Information concerning (1) current employees, former employees, and prospective employees; (2) interns and externs; (3) employees of contractors used, or which may be used, by the agency on national security classified projects; (4) and principal officers of some contractors used, or which may be used, by the agency; and (5) principal officers and some employees of organizations, firms or institutions which are recipients or beneficiaries or prospective recipients or beneficiaries of grants, loans, guarantee or other assistance programs of the agency;— may be disclosed to a private organization or individual as necessary to obtain information in connection with a decision concerning the assignment, hiring or retention of an individual, the issuance of a security clearance, the letting of a contract, or the issuance of a license, grant or other benefit. Disclosure of information from this system of records may also be made to commercial contractors (debt collection agencies) for the purpose of collecting delinquent debts as authorized by the Debt Collection Act (31 U.S.C. 3718).

In addition to the routine uses in the Prefatory Statement of General Routine Uses, as found at 46 FR 63501-63502 (December 31, 1981):

(1) Routine uses will include disclosure for law enforcement purposes to the appropriate agency or other authority, whether federal, state, local, foreign, international or tribal, charged with the responsibility of enforcing, investigating, or prosecuting a violation of any law, rule, regulation, or order in any case in which there is an indication of a violation or potential violation of law (civil, criminal, or regulatory in nature).

(2) Routine uses will include disclosure to an agency, organization, or individual for the purpose of performing audit or oversight operations as authorized by law, but only such information as is necessary and relevant to such audit or oversight function.

(3) Routine uses will include disclosure to contractors and their agents, grantees, experts, consultants, and others performing or working on a contract, service, grant, cooperative agreement, or other work assignment for

the USPTO, when necessary to accomplish an agency function related to this system of records. Individuals provided information under this routine use are subject to the same Privacy Act requirements and limitations on disclosure as are applicable to the USPTO employees.

DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES:

Disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12): Disclosures may be made from this system to "consumer reporting agencies" as defined in the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a(f)), and the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 (31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(3)).

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Records are maintained in paper format in file folders, as digital images, and in electronic databases. Background investigation forms are maintained in the Electronic Questionnaires for Investigations Processing (e-QIP) automated system, which was developed for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Federal Investigative Services Division.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Records are retrieved by name, social security number and/or other unique identifier of the individual on whom they are maintained. The files are searchable in a database available only to authorized employee and contractor staff members of the Office of Human Resources and Office of Security and Safety.

SAFEGUARDS:

Records are located in secured rooms with retained background investigative security files being housed in security containers with access limited to those whose official duties require access. Electronic files are password protected and can only be accessed by authorized personnel.

The e-QIP system is subject to federal law governing records maintained on individuals. Unauthorized attempts to access the e-QIP system, as well as any use of data in the system for unauthorized purposes, are a violation of federal law and/or regulation. Violators are subject to disciplinary action and prosecution.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records retention and disposal is in accordance with the series record schedules.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Director of Security and Safety,
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22313-1450.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Information about the records contained in this system may be obtained by sending a request in writing, signed, to the system manager at the address above or to the address provided in 37 CFR 102 subpart B for making inquiries about records covered by the Privacy Act. Requesters should provide their name, address, and record sought in accordance with the procedures for making inquiries appearing in 37 CFR part 102 subpart B.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Requests from individuals should be addressed as stated in the notification section above.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

The general provisions for access, contesting contents, and appealing initial determinations by the individual concerned appear in 37 CFR part 102 subpart B. Requests from individuals should be addressed as stated in the notification section above.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Subject individuals; OPM, FBI and other Federal, state and local agencies; individuals and organizations that have pertinent knowledge about the subject individual; and those authorized by the individual to furnish information.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a (k)(1), (k)(2) and (k)(5), all investigatory information and material in the record which meets the criteria of these subsections are exempted from the notice, access, and contest requirements under 5 U.S.C. 552a (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4) (G), (H), and (I), and (f) of the agency regulations because of the necessity to exempt this information and material in order to accomplish the law enforcement function of the agency, to prevent disclosure of classified information as required by Executive Order 12065, to prevent subjects of investigation from frustrating the investigatory process, to prevent the disclosure of investigative techniques, to fulfill commitments made to protect the confidentiality of information, and to avoid endangering these sources and law enforcement personnel.

Dated: November 18, 2013.

Susan K. Fawcett,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013-27968 Filed 11-21-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add products and a service to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes services previously provided by such agencies.

Comments Must Be Received on or Before: 12/23/2013.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1401 S. Clark Street, Suite 10800, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-4149.

For Further Information or To Submit Comments Contact: Barry S. Lineback, Telephone: (703) 603-7740, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or email CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C 8503 (a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

Additions

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in this notice will be required to procure the products and service listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The following products and service are proposed for addition to the Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Products

Kit, Paint, Professional Grade

NSN: 8020-00-NIB-0051-6PC

NSN: 8020-00-NIB-0052-14PC

NSN: 8020-00-NIB-0054-4PC

NPA: Industries for the Blind, Inc., West Allis, WI

Contracting Activity: GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, TOOLS