

and the effect such exclusions have on the medical community and industry.

The proponents of H.R. 1127 and S. 1334 have argued that many countries exclude therapeutic and diagnostic methods from patent protection and that the United States should follow their lead and "harmonize" our law with theirs. Testimony is invited in this regard in response to the following questions:

1. Identify countries that exclude therapeutic and diagnostic methods from patentability. As to such exclusions, identify:

(a) the way in which exceptions from patentability of therapeutic and diagnostic methods are provided for in the laws of other countries (for example, whether they are specifically excluded or defined as not being industrially applicable);

(b) the ways in which those exclusions are implemented (for example, whether they are strictly or liberally construed by offices in those countries that grant patents);

(c) the effect such exclusions have on the medical community and industry in countries that maintain them;

(d) any international obligations that would prevent such countries from continuing such exclusions; and

(e) the rationale for providing such exclusions.

2. Identify countries that grant limited immunity from patent infringement to certain persons that practice therapeutic and diagnostic methods. As to such limited immunity, identify:

(a) the way in which such limited immunity is provided for in the laws of other countries (for example, whether it is part of such countries' patent law or general tort law);

(b) the ways in which such limited immunity is implemented in practice;

(c) the effect such limited immunity has on the medical community and industry in countries that provide for such immunity;

(d) any international obligations that would prevent such countries from continuing such limited immunity; and

(e) the rationale for providing such limited immunity from patent infringement.

III. Guidelines for Oral Testimony

Individuals wishing to testify must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Anyone wishing to testify at the hearings must request an opportunity to do so no later than Friday, April 26, 1996. Requests to testify may be accepted on the date of the hearing if sufficient time is available on the schedule. No one will be permitted to testify without prior approval.

2. Requests to testify must include the speaker's name, affiliation, and title, phone number, fax number, and mailing address.

3. Speakers will be provided between 5 and 15 minutes to present their remarks. The exact amount of time allocated per speaker will be

determined after the final number of parties testifying has been determined. All efforts will be made to accommodate requests for additional time for testimony presented before the day of the hearing.

4. Speakers may provide a written copy of their testimony for inclusion in the record of the proceedings. These remarks should be provided no later than Friday, May 17, 1996.

5. Speakers must adhere to guidelines established for testimony. These guidelines will be provided to all speakers on or before Wednesday, May 1, 1996. A schedule providing approximate times for testimony will be provided to each speaker prior to the hearing. Speakers are advised that the schedule for testimony will be subject to change during the course of the hearings.

(Authority: 35 U.S.C. 6(a))

Dated: March 7, 1996.

Bruce Lehman,

*Assistant Secretary of Commerce and
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.*

[FR Doc. 96-5895 Filed 3-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-M

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange: Proposed Amendments Relating to the Quality Standards, Delivery Ports, Packaging, Demurrage, and Trading Month Specifications for the White Sugar Futures Contract

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Correction of Closing Date for Public Comment Period for Proposed Contract Rule Changes.

On March 7, 1996, the Division of Economic Analysis ("Division"), acting pursuant to Commission Regulation 140.96, published a notice in the Federal Register (61 FR 9147) on behalf of Commodity Futures Trading Commission requesting public comment on the referenced proposed amendments by the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange ("CSCE"). In accordance with Section 5a(a)(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act, the public comment period for the CSCE's proposed amendments ends April 8, 1996.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views or arguments on the proposed amendments should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre,

1155 21st Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20581 by the specified date.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 8, 1996.

Blake Imel,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 96-6033 Filed 3-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Proposed Information Collection Available for Public Comment

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) (Requirements and Resources), ATTN: Reports Clearance Officer, Room 3C980, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000. Consideration will be given to all comments received within 60 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Title, Applicable, and OMB Control Number: DoD Loan Repayment Program (LRP); DD Form 2475; OMB Control Number 0704-0152.

Summary: Public Laws 99-145 and 100-180 authorize the Military Services to repay student loans for individuals who agree to enter the military in specific occupational areas for a specified services obligation period. The law provides for repayment for service performed on active duty or as a member of the Reserve Components in a military specialty determined by the Secretary of Defense. The legislation requires the Services to verify the status of the individual's loan prior to

repayment. The DD Form 2475, "DoD Educational Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Annual Application," is used to collect the necessary verification data from the lending institution.

Needs and Uses: Military Services are authorized to repay student loans for individuals who meet certain criteria and who enlist for active military service or enter Reserve service for a specified obligation period. Applicants who qualify for the program forward the DD Form 2475, "DoD Educational Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Annual Application," to their Military Service Personnel Office for processing. The Military Service Personnel Office verifies the information and fills in the loan repayment date, address and phone number. For the Reserve Components, the Military Service Personnel Office forwards the DD Form 2475 to the lending institution. For the active duty Service, the Service member mails the form to the lending institution. The lending institution confirms the loan status and certification and mails the form back to the Military Service Personnel Office.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Annual Burden Hours (Including Recordkeeping): 11,250 hours.

Number of Respondents: 45,000.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address or call the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Reports Clearance Officer at (703) 614-8989.

Dated: March 8, 1996.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 96-5995 Filed 3-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for

Health Affairs announces the proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to: The Pentagon, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Health Services Financing, Rm 3E349, 1200 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-1200; Attn: Gunther Zimmerman.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instrument, please write to the above address, or contact Mr. Gunther J. Zimmerman, on (703) 695-3331.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: Contained Health Care Benefit Program Application, CHCBP Form #7524.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain and process enrollment on the CHCBP. Interested beneficiaries mail the application form and a check for the first ninety days of coverage to the TPA. The TPA reviews the application, accompanying proof of eligibility and premium check, and either accepts or rejects enrollment.

Affected Public: Former military service members and their dependents.

Annual Burden Hours: 500.

Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Frequency: Once per respondent.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

Respondents are former Military Health Services System (MHSS) beneficiaries who have lost their entitlement the MHSS health care. The 1993 National Defense Authorization

Act enacted the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP), thereby entitling certain former MHSS beneficiaries to temporary, transitional health care coverage. Eligible beneficiaries must complete an application form to provide eligibility and enrollment data to allow the Department's civilian Third Party Administrator (TPA) to process their application for enrollment. Information from the application (e.g., name, age, SSN, address) is entered into Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), which is the system that controls eligibility for MHSS entitlement.

Dated: March 8, 1996.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 96-5996 Filed 3-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces the proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (OCHAMPUS), Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center, Office of Appeals and Hearings, ATTN: Mr. Don Wagner, Aurora, CO 80045-6900.