

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Bureau of Export Administration****Commercial Encryption Items**

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Stephen Baker, Department of Commerce, 14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 6877, Washington, D.C. 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

This information collection is necessary to support liberalizations of export controls for encryption items recently announced by the Administration. This initiative makes it easier to use stronger encryption products, both at home and abroad, to protect their privacy, intellectual property and other valuable information. It supports the growth of electronic commerce, increases the security of the global information, and sustains the economic competitiveness of U.S. encryption product manufacturers during the transition to a key management infrastructure. The information provided is used for export licensing decisions.

I. Method of Collection

Written or by Fax.

II. Data

OMB Number: 0694-0104.

Form Number: BXA 748P.

Type of Review: Renewal of existing collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,200.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1/2 to 40 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7,720.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$160,000 (for start-up costs for data base development).

IV. Request for Comments

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 (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. The Department particularly welcomes comments on the burden estimate to comply with the requirements, as well as the costs associated with it.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 4, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

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BILLING CODE 3510-33-P

Regulations and Procedures Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

A meeting of the Regulations and Procedures Technical Advisory Committee will be held March 6, 1997, 9:00 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 14th Street between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on implementation of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and provides for continuing review to update the EAR as needed.

Agenda**Open Session**

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman.

2. Presentation of papers or comments by the public.

3. Update on Bureau of Export Administration initiatives.

4. Report on "is informed" implementation.

5. Discussion on Enhanced Proliferation Control Initiative (EPCI) issues: rewrite of the Export Management System guidelines and end-use screening.

6. Responses to Report on Foreign Policy Export Controls.

7. Discussion on "deemed export" case review and policy.

8. Reports from the working groups.

Closed Session

9. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

The General Session of the meeting will be open to the public and a limited number of seats will be available. To the extent that time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. Written statements may be submitted at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate the distribution of public presentation materials to the Committee members, the Committee suggests that presenters forward the public presentation materials two weeks prior to the meeting date to the following address: Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter, TAC Unit/OAS/EA MS: 3886C, Bureau of Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on December 2, 1996, pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10 (a)(1) and (a)(3), of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC. For further information, call Lee Ann Carpenter at (202) 482-2583.