

persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, April 2, 1997.

**Carol-Lee Hurley,**

*Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.*  
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## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 12:30 p.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. on May 13, 1997, at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, 870 Williston Road, Burlington, Vermont 05403. The purpose of the meeting is to receive updates from speakers on racial harassment in Vermont public schools and to continue work on a project proposal for a Committee activity in late fall 1997.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Kimberly B. Cheney, 802-229-0334, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, April 2, 1997.

**Carol-Lee Hurley,**

*Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of the Census

#### Shipper's Export Declaration Program

**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 June 9, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Jerome M. Greenwell, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Room 2176, Federal Office Building #3, Washington, DC 20233-0001, (301) 457-2238.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Shipper's Export Declaration (SEDs), Forms 7525-V, 7525-V Alternate (Intermodal), and their electronic equivalents are the basis for the official U.S. export statistics compiled by the Bureau of the Census (Census). The SED for In-transit Goods and Form 7513 serves as the source document from which Census collects and compiles the official U.S. statistics on outbound in-transit shipments. Title 13, United States Code, Chapter 9, Sections 301-307 authorizes the collection of all these data. The official export statistics provide a basic component for the compilation of the U.S. position on merchandise trade. These data is an essential component of the monthly totals on U.S. overall trade in goods and services, a leading economic indicator.

The statistical information on the SED shows what is being exported (description and commodity classification number), how much (quantity, gross weight and value), how it is being exported (mode of transportation, exporting carrier and whether containerized), from where (state of origin and port of export), to where (port of unloading and country of ultimate destination), and when (date of exportation). The identification of the exporter, forwarding agent, and consignee provide contacts for verification of the statistical information. The Government uses every data element on the SED for (1)

statistical purposes, (2) export control, and/or (3) to obtain information to avoid additional surveys.

The SEDs also are export control documents under Title 50, United States Code and are used to detect and prevent the export of certain commodities (for example, high technology or military goods) to unauthorized destinations or end users. The SEDs as official documents of export transactions, enable the U.S. Customs Service (Customs) and the Bureau of Export Administration to enforce the Export Administration Regulations and thereby detect and prevent the export of high technology commodities to unauthorized destinations. The Department of State uses the SED to enforce the International Traffic in Arms Regulations to detect and prevent the export of arms and ammunition to unauthorized destinations.

In the past, each different type of paper SED form was cleared separately. In recent years the number of submissions via automated programs, the Automated Export Reporting Program (AERP) operated by Census and the new Automated Export System (AES) operated by Customs, have grown rapidly and must now be considered as part of the SED submissions. With this submission we will combine the various types of SEDs, both paper and electronic, under one OMB clearance submission to better reflect reporting burden and streamline the clearance process.

##### II. Method of Collection

The SEDs are required for virtually all export shipments valued over \$2500 from the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The SED program is unique among Census statistical collections since it is not sent to respondents soliciting responses as is the case in surveys. Filing the SED information is mandatory under Title 13, Chapter 9 of the United States Code and over 5.6 million paper SEDs and over 53 million automated records were submitted in 1996. Exporters can purchase the paper SEDs or they may have them privately printed. In addition, over 300 automated exporters or exporter agents submit data using prescribed automated formats. For this reason Census attempts to avoid frequent changes in data content and format. The paper SEDs and automated formats in their present form have been in continuous use since 1985 with minor revisions in 1988. Once again for this submission, there has been no change in these formats.

Exporters or their agents file individual paper SEDs with the