

1. Please identify overall changes you recommend to the PCT system.

2. Please explain why you use the PCT system, as opposed to direct foreign filing via the Paris Convention. What benefits are applicants seeking by the use of the PCT system, in addition to the longer time to decide where to enter the national stage?

3. The USPTO has been contracting out the international search of international applications that designate the USPTO as the International Searching Authority, so as to help the USPTO improve the timeliness of the international search. From the applicant's viewpoint, please identify the advantages and disadvantages from this contracting out of the international search.

4. In addition, please explain whether applicants have concerns with the USPTO's use of contractors for the international search of PCT applications.

5. Please explain whether you support including PCT search and examination results in worksharing mechanisms, such as the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH).

6. Where the international search report and written opinion of the International Searching Authority are at least partially negative, please explain whether you would expect to request international preliminary examination under Chapter II of the PCT more often in order to get PPH benefit at the national phase?

7. Please explain whether you believe the USPTO should encourage early national stage entry when designated as an ISA or IPEA, and implement a system that combines the international and national phase.

8. Please identify any changes you recommend to improve the quality of the work produced under the PCT system.

9. Please explain whether delaying the issuance of the International Search Report until after publication of the international application has any significant impact on your use of the PCT?

10. Please explain whether you believe that the PCT would benefit from a third-party observation system (including submission of prior art) and/or more efficient means for applicant-submitted prior art.

11. Please explain your primary reasons for choosing an ISA.

12. Please explain how the USPTO could improve its processing as a receiving Office.

13. Please explain how the USPTO could improve its processing as a designated/elected Office.

The USPTO plans to make the meeting available via Web cast. Web cast information will be available on the USPTO's Internet Web site before the roundtable. The written comments and list of the meeting participants and their associations will be posted on the USPTO's Internet Web site (<http://www.uspto.gov>).

Dated: December 2, 2009.

**David J. Kappos,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. E9-29329 Filed 12-8-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

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## CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meetings

**TIME AND DATE:** Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 9 a.m.–12 noon.

**PLACE:** Hearing Room 420, Bethesda Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

**STATUS:** Commission Meeting—Open to the Public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

1. Pending Decisional Matter: (a) Tracking Labels for Drywall Notice of Inquiry.

2. Final Rule on Registration Cards.  
A live webcast of the Meeting can be viewed at <http://www.cpsc.gov/webcast/index.html>.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-7948.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Todd A. Stevenson, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 504-7923.

Dated: December 2, 2009.

**Todd A. Stevenson,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E9-29192 Filed 12-8-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6355-01-M**

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## CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meetings

**TIME AND DATE:** Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 2:00–4 p.m.

**PLACE:** Hearing Room 420, Bethesda Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

**STATUS:** Closed to the Public.

**MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED:**

Compliance Weekly Report—Commission Briefing.

The staff will brief the Commission on various compliance matters.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-7948.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Todd A. Stevenson, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 504-7923.

Dated: December 2, 2009.

**Todd A. Stevenson,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E9-29193 Filed 12-8-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6355-01-M**

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## COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### Draft Principles and Standards Sections of the "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies"; Initiation of Revision and Request for Comments

**AGENCY:** Council on Environmental Quality.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-114) directs the Secretary of the Army to revise the "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies," (P&G) dated March 10, 1983, consistent with a number of considerations enumerated in the statute. The Administration has initiated the development of uniform planning standards for the development of water resources that would apply to water resources development programs and activities government-wide, to agencies in addition to the traditional water resources development agencies covered under the current Principles and Guidelines: the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation (Interior), Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA), and Tennessee Valley Authority. Therefore, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, has implemented a two phase interagency process revising the planning guidance. The first phase focused on facilitating interagency revisions to the "Principles and Standards" (Chapter I of the existing P&G) of Principles and Guidelines for planning water resources