within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395–7285, or David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov. Dated: February 22, 2010.

Gwennar Banks,
Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2010–3885 Filed 2–24–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
[Docket No.: PTO–P–2010–0001]
Request for Comments on Methodology for Conducting an Independent Study of the Burden of Patent-Related Paperwork


ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) retained ICF International (ICF) to perform an independent study of the burden of patent-related paperwork, beginning with a report describing the methodologies for performing such a study (Methodology Report). ICF has now provided the USPTO with its Methodology Report, in which ICF recommends methodologies for addressing various topics about estimating the patent-related burdens imposed on the public as reflected in information collection requests under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). The USPTO is inviting public comment on ICF’s Methodology Report.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 12, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to pra_study_comments@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, marked to the attention of Raul Tamayo. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

The written comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the USPTO Internet Web site (address: http://www.uspto.gov). Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Raul Tamayo, Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Associate Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, at (571) 272–7728.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: While information collection is critical to evidence-based decisions and informed government operations, unnecessary paperwork requirements can impose serious burdens on the public, especially small entities. The PRA requires Federal agencies to minimize the burden on the public resulting from their information collections, and to maximize the practical utility of the information collected.

As part of its continuing effort to improve the accuracy and transparency of its patent-related PRA burden estimates, the USPTO retained ICF to perform an independent study having the following three overall objectives: (1) Develop an independent, publicly vetted, objectively based estimate of the total cost of paperwork for patent applicants; (2) develop recommendations for continued improvement in the accuracy of burden estimates made by the USPTO in the future; and (3) identify opportunities to reduce applicant burdens. ICF’s Methodology Report provides concise descriptions of the methodologies it recommends for conducting specific inter-related analyses for addressing the three overall objectives.

The specific inter-related analyses will be performed independently by ICF and will provide impartial, fact-based results. The approaches described in ICF’s Methodology Report for performing the analyses were developed independently by ICF, and are ICF’s recommendations regarding the most efficient and effective ways to complete the analyses and to meet the overall objectives for the study.

The USPTO is inviting comments from the public regarding ICF’s Methodology Report. The USPTO posted the Methodology Report on its Internet Web site (http://www.uspto.gov) on February 25, 2010, with a notice requesting public comment on the Methodology Report and indicating that written comments must be received on or before April 12, 2010, to receive consideration.
In the Preliminary Results, the Department stated that interested parties were to submit case briefs within 30 days of publication of the Preliminary Results and rebuttal briefs within five days of the due date for filing case briefs. See Preliminary Results at 57652. No interested party submitted a case or rebuttal brief. We have made no changes since the Preliminary Results were published.

Period of Review
The period of review (POR) is October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008.

Scope of the Order
The merchandise subject to this order is certain hot-rolled products of carbon steel and alloy steel, in coils, of approximately round cross section, 5.00 mm or more, but less than 19.00 mm, in solid cross-sectional diameter. Specifically excluded are steel products possessing the physical characteristics and meeting the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) definitions for (a) stainless steel; (b) tool steel; (c) high nickel steel; (d) ball bearing steel; and (e) concrete reinforcing bars and rods. Also excluded are (f) free machining steel products (i.e., products that contain by weight one or more of the following elements: 0.03 percent or more of lead, 0.05 percent or more of bismuth, 0.08 percent or more of sulfur, more than 0.04 percent of phosphorus, more than 0.05 percent of selenium, or more than 0.01 percent of tellurium). Also excluded from the scope are 1080 grade tire cord quality wire rod and 1080 grade tire bead quality wire rod. Grade 1080 tire cord quality rod is defined as: (i) grade 1080 tire cord quality wire rod measuring 5.5 mm or more but not more than 7.0 mm in cross-sectional diameter; (ii) with an average partial decarburization of no more than 70 microns in depth (maximum individual 200 microns); (iii) having no non-deformable inclusions greater than 20 microns and no deformable inclusions greater than 35 microns; (iv) having a carbon segregation per heat average of 3.0 or better using European Method NFA 04–114; (v) having a surface quality with no surface defects of a length greater than 0.2 mm; (vi) capable of being drawn to a diameter of 0.78 mm or larger with 0.5 or fewer breaks per ton; and (vii) containing by weight the following elements in the proportions shown: (1) 0.78 percent or more of carbon, (2) less than 0.01 percent of soluble aluminum, (3) 0.040 percent or less, in the aggregate, of phosphorus and sulfur, (4) 0.008 percent or less of nitrogen, and (5) either not more than 0.15 percent, in the aggregate, of copper, nickel and chromium (if chromium is not specified), or not more than 0.10 percent in the aggregate of copper and nickel and a chromium content of 0.24 to 0.30 percent (if chromium is specified).

For purposes of grade 1080 tire cord quality wire rod and grade 1080 tire bead quality wire rod, an inclusion will be considered to be deformable if its ratio of length (measured along the axis – that is, the direction of rolling – of the rod) over thickness (measured on the same inclusion in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the rod) is equal to or greater than three. The size of an inclusion for purposes of the 20 microns and 35 microns limitations is the measurement of the largest dimension observed on a longitudinal section measured in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the rod. This measurement methodology applies only to inclusions on certain grade 1080 tire cord quality wire rod and certain grade 1080 tire bead quality wire rod that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 24, 2003.

The designation of the products as “tire cord quality” or “tire bead quality” indicates the acceptability of the product for use in the production of tire cord, tire bead, or wire for use in other rubber reinforcement applications such as hose wire. These quality designations are presumed to indicate that these products are being used in tire cord, tire bead, and other rubber reinforcement applications, and such merchandise