

Response: NIST did not make the requested change because the scope of DOC PS 20 deals with the grade marking of various softwood lumber and the addition of eco-labeling is therefore considered outside the scope of this standard.

DOC PS 20–10 supersedes DOC PS 20–05, effective June 1, 2010. The new edition reflects efforts toward updating and improving DOC PS 20 with clarification and amplification of text and terms while maintaining the technical requirements and administrative structure for implementing and enforcing the Standard.

Dated: March 30, 2010.

Marc G. Stanley,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 2010–7494 Filed 4–1–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Federal Geospatial Summit To Provide Information on Upcoming Improvements To the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), Including the Replacement of the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88)

AGENCY: National Geodetic Survey (NGS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) will host a Federal Geospatial Summit to discuss the impact updating the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) will have on federal government agencies by replacing the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), and other state and territorial island vertical datums. The proposed changes will affect the surveying, mapping, charting, and Geographic Information System (GIS) programs of federal government agencies, as well as those tribal, state, county, and municipal governments that have adopted the NSRS.

DATES: The public meeting will be held Tuesday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 12, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Science Center and Auditorium, located at 1301

East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Christine Gallagher, Program Analyst, National Geodetic Survey (N/NGS1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone: (301) 713–3231 x 105; E-mail: christine.gallagher@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract

In January 2008, NGS adopted a 10-year plan identifying the need to change the geometric and vertical geodetic datums of the United States to improve the efficient use of the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS). Continuing technological developments and enhancements in space-based positioning, navigation, and timing systems by the United States, as well as in other international programs, including the Chinese global satellite navigation system COMPASS, the European Union's satellite navigation system GALILEO, and the Russian GLONASS (Global'naya Navigatsionnaya Sputnikovaya Sistema), will have a profound impact on the integration of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies with Federal surveying, mapping, charting, and GIS programs. In an effort to support these rapid changes in positioning technologies, NGS has adopted a plan to replace NAD 83 and NAVD 88, as well as other state and territorial island datums, with more contemporary geodetic reference systems, thereby reducing several significant impediments to the efficient use of these positioning and navigation systems. This meeting will serve as a forum to allow Federal geospatial program managers, technical specialists, and contractors to address the impacts of the planned changes, offer an opportunity to discuss these changes, and explain how NGS may provide training and technical assistance to ensure minimal technical and budgetary impacts resulting from these new systems.

Dated: March 19, 2010.

Juliana P. Blackwell,

Director, Office of National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2010–7080 Filed 4–1–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–JE–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (Committee) in Charleston, South Carolina.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 20, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Thursday, April 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Refer to the web page listed below for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Francis Marion Hotel, 387 King Street, Charleston, South Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Officer, MPA FAC, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (Phone: 301–713–3100 x136, Fax: 301–713–3110); e-mail: lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov; or visit the National MPA Center Web site at <http://www.mpa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee, composed of external, knowledgeable representatives of stakeholder groups, was established by the Department of Commerce (DOC) to provide advice to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior on implementation of Section 4 of Executive Order 13158 on MPAs. The meeting will be open to public participation from 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, and from 8:35 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2010. In general, each individual or group will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. If members of the public wish to submit written statements, they should be submitted to the Designated Federal Official by April 15, 2010.

Matters to be Considered: The focus of the Committee's meeting will be the establishment of appropriate Subcommittees and Workgroups and their development of work plans to address the Committee's new charge. The Committee will receive an update on the Administration's Ocean Policy Task Force and Coastal and Marine

Spatial Planning initiatives, and their linkages to the national system of MPAs. The Committee will hear from two panels of MPA stakeholders: one on regional MPA issues in the South Atlantic, and one on cultural MPA resources. The agenda is subject to change. The latest version will be posted at <http://www.mpa.gov>.

Donna Wieting,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 2010-7082 Filed 4-1-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2010-0029]

Request for Comments on Proposed Change To Missing Parts Practice

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), in response to a number of requests to reduce the costs due one year after filing a provisional application, is considering a change that would effectively provide a 12-month extension to the 12-month provisional application period (creating a net 24-month period). This change would be implemented through the missing parts practice in nonprovisional applications. Currently the missing parts practice permits an applicant on payment of a surcharge to pay the up-front filing fees and submit an executed oath or declaration after the filing of a nonprovisional application within a two-month time period set by the USPTO that is extendable on payment of extension of time fees for an additional five months. Under the proposal, applicants would be permitted to file a nonprovisional application with at least one claim within the 12-month statutory period after the provisional application was filed, pay the basic filing fee, and submit an executed oath or declaration. In addition, the nonprovisional application would need to be in condition for publication and applicant would not be able to file a nonpublication request. Applicants would be given a 12-month period to decide whether the nonprovisional application should be completed by paying the required surcharge and the search, examination and any excess claim fees due within that 12-month period. The proposal would benefit applicants by permitting additional time

to determine if patent protection should be sought at a relatively low cost and by permitting applicants to focus efforts on commercialization during this period. The proposal would benefit the USPTO and the public by adding publications to the body of prior art, and by removing from the USPTO's workload those nonprovisional applications for which the applicants have decided not to pursue examination. Importantly, the extended missing parts period would not affect the 12-month priority period provided by the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and, thus, any foreign filings would still need to be made within 12 months of the filing date of the provisional application if applicant wishes to rely on the provisional application in the foreign-filed application.

Comment Deadline Date: To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before June 1, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to extended_missing_parts@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 Eugenia A. Jones. 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, 22314, 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:

Eugenia A. Jones, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Associate Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at (571) 272-7727, or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Eugenia A. Jones.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicants have a one-year period from the filing date of a provisional application to file a corresponding nonprovisional application in order to claim the benefit of the provisional

application. Roughly fifty percent of provisional applications are abandoned without the subsequent filing of nonprovisional applications claiming their benefit. Many applicants have expressed that a longer period of time to draft a complete set of claims and pay fees would facilitate their efforts to determine whether their inventions have commercial viability, and would enable more informed and economically efficient decision making for applicants considering filing nonprovisional applications claiming benefit of prior provisional applications. Moreover, these same applicants have expressed that they would be willing to commit to 18-month publication of the invention disclosed in their provisional applications benefiting from any extension period, as well as any nonprovisional applications later claiming benefit of such provisional applications.

In order to claim the benefit of a prior provisional application, the statute requires a nonprovisional application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) to be filed within 12 months after the date on which the corresponding provisional application was filed. See 35 U.S.C. 119(e). The proposed change would not alter this statutory requirement but would allow applicants to more easily avail themselves of the benefits of missing parts practice in nonprovisional applications.

Under the current missing parts practice, if a nonprovisional application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) has been accorded a filing date but does not include the basic filing fee, the search fee, the examination fee, or an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.63, the USPTO will send a missing parts notice and set a time period for the applicant to submit the missing items and pay any required surcharge to avoid abandonment. See 37 CFR 1.53(f). If excess claims fees, a multiple dependent claim fee, and/or an application size fee are required and such fees have not been paid, then these fees are also required to be paid in response to a missing parts notice. Currently, the time period set forth in a missing parts notice is two months with extensions of time of up to five months under 37 CFR 1.136(a) being available.

The USPTO is requesting public comment on whether the missing parts practice should be changed to provide applicants with an extended time period to reply to a missing parts notice requiring fees in a nonprovisional application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) that claims the benefit of a provisional application under the conditions that the basic filing fee for the