Comments Received

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.8(d), TSA published a 60-day notice soliciting comments from persons outside of the agency regarding the data collection procedures of EXIS. This notice was published on January 6, 2011 (76 FR 792). TSA received two comments. The first comment was from a contractor in the Infrastructure Protection Disaster Management Division of the Science and Technology Directorate at DHS. This comment sought more information regarding the program manager of EXIS and program manager role/capabilities in exercise training. TSA responded by referring the commentator to the appropriate EXIS personnel for further detail on the EXIS program manager role. The second comment came from a transportation security inspector in South Carolina seeking more information on the capabilities of EXIS. TSA responded by electronically sending the commentator an EXIS information brochure and referring the commentator to the EXIS email address for any additional questions. To our knowledge, no additional comments have been received.

Information Collection Requirement

Title: Exercise Information System (EXIS).

Type of Request: New collection.

OMB Control Number: Not yet assigned.

Form(s): N/A.

Affected Public: Interested transportation owners and operators with security interests and responsibilities.

Abstract: The Exercise Information System (EXIS) is an Internet-accessible knowledge-management system developed by TSA serving stakeholders—industry, port authorities, Federal agencies, and State and local governments—and integrating other security-related training and exercise components. Because EXIS may contain Sensitive Security Information (SSI), the system meets the requirements for an SSI-level system. EXIS gives stakeholders valuable exercise information tailored to the transportation industry, best practices, and lessons learned based on experience for use in future exercises. Transportation industry stakeholders can choose scenarios and objectives based on their particular needs, such as their transportation modes, or their regulated areas of operation. EXIS is a data management system that provides end-to-end security exercise support, from the initial planning meeting, through exercise design, implementation, evaluation, and reporting.

TSA will use this information to assess and improve the capabilities of all surface transportation modes to prevent, prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from transportation security incidents. A failure to collect this information will limit TSA’s ability to effectively test security countermeasures, security plans, and the ability of a modal operator to respond to and quickly recover after a transportation security incident. Insufficient awareness, prevention, response, and recovery to a transportation security incident will result in increased vulnerability of the U.S. transportation network and a reduced ability of DHS to assess system readiness.

Since the system has not been released to the public yet, it is difficult to determine the amount of volume that will be generated from its release. Based on industry population estimates and industry growth rates transportation modes prior to EXIS release to the public, TSA estimates that there will be approximately 336,000 users within the first three years of the system’s use. TSA estimates users will spend approximately 7 hours per EXIS user inputting the information described above.

Number of Respondents: 112,109.


Joanna Johnson,
TSA Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, Office of Information Technology.

BILLING CODE 9110–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Agency Information Collection Activities: Form N–470, Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Comment Request


The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. An information collection notice was previously published in the Federal Register on October 12, 2011, at 76 FR 63321, allowing for a 60-day public comment period. USCIS received comments from one commentator on the 60-day notice. A discussion of the comments and USCIS’ responses are addressed in item 8 of the supporting statement that can be viewed at: http://www.regulations.gov.

The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until January 18, 2012. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), USCIS Desk Officer. Comments may be submitted to: USCIS, Chief, Regulatory Products Division, Clearance Office, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC 20529–2020. Comments may also be submitted to DHS via facsimile to (202) 272–0997 or via email at uscis@comment@dhs.gov, and to the OMB USCIS Desk Officer via facsimile at (202) 395–5806 or via email at oira_submission@omb.eop.gov. When submitting comments by email please make sure to add OMB Control Number 1615–0056 in the subject box. Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

1 See 49 U.S.C. 114(a); 49 CFR part 1520.
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Regulatory Waiver Requests Granted for the Third Quarter of Calendar Year 2011

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 106 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (the HUD Reform Act) requires HUD to publish quarterly Federal Register notices of all regulatory waivers that HUD has approved. Each notice covers the quarterly period since the previous Federal Register notice. The purpose of this notice is to comply with the requirements of section 106 of the HUD Reform Act. This notice contains a list of regulatory waivers granted by HUD during the period beginning on July 1, 2011, and ending on September 30, 2011.

For further information contact: For general information about this notice, contact Camille E. Acevedo, Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 10282, Washington, DC 20410-0500, telephone (202) 708-1793 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing- or speech-impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

For information concerning a particular waiver that was granted and for which public notice is provided in this document, contact the person whose name and address follow the description of the waiver granted in the accompanying list of waivers that have been granted in the third quarter of calendar year 2011.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 106 of the HUD Reform Act added a new section 7(q) to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)), which provides that:

1. Any waiver of a regulation must be in writing and must specify the grounds for approving the waiver;
2. Authority to approve a waiver of a regulation may be delegated by the Secretary only to an individual of Assistant Secretary or equivalent rank, and the person to whom authority to waive is delegated must also have authority to issue the particular regulation to be waived;
3. Not less than quarterly, the Secretary must notify the public of all waivers of regulations that HUD has approved, by publishing a notice in the Federal Register. These notices (each covering the period since the most recent previous notification) shall:
   a. Identify the project, activity, or undertaking involved;
   b. Describe the nature of the provision waived and the designation of the provision;
   c. Indicate the name and title of the person who granted the waiver request;
   d. Describe the grounds for approval of the request; and
   e. State how additional information about a particular waiver may be obtained.

Section 106 of the HUD Reform Act also contains requirements applicable to waivers of HUD handbook provisions that are not relevant to the purpose of this notice.

This notice follows procedures provided in HUD’s Statement of Policy on Waiver of Regulations and Directives issued on April 22, 1991 (56 FR 16337). In accordance with those procedures and with the requirements of section 106 of the HUD Reform Act, waivers of regulations are granted by the Assistant Secretary with jurisdiction over the regulations for which a waiver was requested. In those cases in which a General Deputy Assistant Secretary granted the waiver, the General Deputy Assistant Secretary was serving in the absence of the Assistant Secretary in accordance with the office’s Order of Succession.

This notice covers waivers of regulations granted by HUD from July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011. For ease of reference, the waivers granted by HUD are listed by HUD program office (for example, the Office of Community Planning and Development, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the Office of Housing, and the Office of Public and Indian Housing, etc.). Within each program office grouping, the waivers are listed sequentially by the regulatory section of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that is being waived. For example, a waiver of a provision in 24 CFR part 58 would be listed before a waiver of a provision in 24 CFR part 570.

Where more than one regulatory provision is involved in the grant of a particular waiver request, the action is listed under the section number of the first regulatory requirement that appears in 24 CFR and that is being waived. For example, a waiver of both § 58.73 and § 58.74 would appear sequentially in the listing under § 58.73.

Waivers of regulations that involve the same initial regulatory citation are set out in time sequence beginning with the earliest-dated regulatory waiver.

Should HUD receive additional information about waivers granted during the period covered by this report (the third quarter of calendar year 2011) before the next report is published (the fourth quarter of calendar year 2011), HUD will include any additional waivers granted for the third quarter in the next report.

Accordingly, information about approved waiver requests pertaining to HUD regulations is provided in the Appendix that follows this notice.