DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the emergency provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: International Trade Administration (ITA).

Title: Interim Procedures for Considering Requests from the Public under the Textile and Apparel Safeguard Provision of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

OMB Control Number: None.

Type of Request: Emergency submission (new information collection).

Burden Hours: 56.

Number of Respondents: 14.

Average Hours per Response: 4 hours for a Textile and Apparel Safeguard Request; and 4 hours for a Comment.

Needs and Uses: Title III, Subtitle C, Section 331 through Section 338 of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "Act") implements the textile and apparel safeguard provisions, provided for in Article 4.1 of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement"), which entered into force on March 15, 2012. This safeguard mechanism applies when, as a result of the reduction or elimination of a customs duty under the Agreement, a Korean textile or apparel article is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities, in absolute terms or relative to the domestic market for that article, and under such conditions as to cause serious damage or actual threat thereof to a U.S. industry producing a like or directly competitive article. In these circumstances, Article 4.1.1(b) permits the United States to (a) suspend any further reduction in the rate of duty provided for under Annex 2-B of the Agreement in the duty imposed on the article; or (b) increase duties on the imported article from Korea to a level that does not exceed the lesser of the prevailing U.S. normal trade relations ("NTR")/most-favored-nation ("MFN") duty rate for the article or the U.S. NTR/MFN duty rate in effect on the day before the Agreement enters into force.

The Statement of Administrative Action accompanying the Act provides that the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) will issue procedures for requesting such safeguard measures, for making its determinations under Section 332(a) of the Act, and for providing relief under Section 332(b) of the Act. CITA was unable to publish these procedures earlier and is requesting an emergency review of the information collection and procedures from the Office of Management and Budget.

CITA must collect information in order to determine whether a domestic textile or apparel industry is being adversely impacted by imports of these products from Korean, thereby allowing CITA to take corrective action to protect the viability of the domestic textile or apparel industry, subject to section 332(b) of the Act.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent’s Obligation: Voluntary.


Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482–0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 or via email at jJessup@doc.gov.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent by April 16, 2012 to Wendy Liberante, OMB Desk Officer, Fax number (202) 395–5167 or via the Internet at Wendy_L_Liberante@omb.gov.

Dated: March 14, 2012.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

[DOcket No. 120309175–2178–01]


Action: Notice of inquiry.

Summary: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Defense Stockpile Market Impact Committee, co-chaired by the Departments of Commerce and State, is seeking public comments on the potential market impact of the proposed supplement to the Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Materials Plan related to establishing three new material research and development projects. The research and development projects involve three materials—cadmium zinc tellurium (CZT) substrates, trichlorobenzene (TCB), and rhenium alloy. The role of the Market Impact Committee is to advise the National Defense Stockpile Manager on the projected domestic and foreign economic effects of all acquisitions and disposals involving the stockpile and related material research and development projects. Public comments are an important element of the Committee’s market impact review process.

Dates: To be considered, written comments must be received by April 19, 2012.


Supplementary information:
Background


Section 3314 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 1993 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (50 U.S.C. 98h–1) formally established a Market Impact Committee (the “Committee”) to “advise the National Defense Stockpile Manager on the projected domestic and foreign economic effects of all acquisitions and disposals of materials from the stockpile.” The Committee must also balance market impact concerns with the statutory requirement to protect the U.S. Government against avoidable loss.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Commerce, State, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Interior, the Treasury, and Homeland Security, and is co-chaired by the Departments of Commerce and State. The FY 1993 NDAA directs the Committee to consult with industry representatives that produce, process, or consume the materials stored in or of interest to the National Defense Stockpile Manager.

In Attachment 1, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) lists the quantities of materials associated with three proposed material research and development projects to supplement its FY 2012 Annual Materials Plan. Two of the material research and development projects relate to DLA establishing vendor-owned buffer inventories in the United States for cadmium zinc tellurium (CZT) substrates and trichlorobenzene (TCB) up to the levels enumerated in Attachment 1. In these material research and development projects, DLA would enter into arrangements with vendors to maintain inventories of the two materials with options that DLA could purchase material if needed. In the third material research and development project, DLA would establish a DLA administered material reclamation process project to recycle rhenium alloy which would be re-introduced into the market by the vendor up to the level enumerated in Attachment 1.

The Committee is seeking public comments on the potential market impact of the material research and development projects. Public comments are an important element of the Committee’s market impact review process.

DLA is required to supplement its FY 2012 Annual Materials Plan to account for the three material research and development projects because DLA will use the Defense National Stockpile Transaction Fund to pay for the three material research and development projects. The quantities listed in Attachment 1 are not acquisition target quantities, but rather a statement of the proposed maximum quantity of each listed material that may be associated with the three material research and development projects in FY 2012. DLA is not proposing to acquire these materials and add them to the National Defense Stockpile. The quantity of each material that will actually be associated with the three material research and development projects will depend on the market for the materials during the fiscal year as well as on the quantity of each material approved for these material research and development projects by Congress.

Submission of Comments

The Committee requests that interested parties provide written comments, supporting data and documentation, and any other relevant information on the potential market impact of the quantities associated with the three material research and development projects. All comments must be submitted to the address indicated in this notice. All comments submitted through email must include the phrase “Market Impact Committee Notice of Inquiry” in the subject line.

The Committee encourages interested persons who wish to comment to do so at the earliest possible time. The period for submission of comments will close on April 19, 2012. The Committee will consider all comments received before the close of the comment period. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be considered, if possible, but their consideration cannot be assured.

All comments submitted in response to this notice will be made a matter of public record and will be available for public inspection and copying. Anyone submitting business confidential information should clearly identify the business confidential portion of the submission and also provide a non-confidential submission that can be placed in the public record. The Committee will seek to protect such information to the extent permitted by law.

The Office of Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, displays public comments on the BIS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Web site at http://www.bis.doc.gov/foia. This office does not maintain a separate public inspection facility. If you have technical difficulties accessing this Web site, please call BIS’s Office of Administration at (202) 482–1900 for assistance.

Dated: March 14, 2012.

Kevin J. Wolf,
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

Attachment 1

PROPOSED SUPPLEMENT TO FISCAL YEAR 2012 ANNUAL MATERIALS PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Footnote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium Zinc Tellurium (CZT) substrates</td>
<td>cm²</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichlorobenzene (TCB)</td>
<td>Lbs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhenium Alloy</td>
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</table>

¹ Vendor-owned buffer inventory material research and development project.
² Material reclamation research and development project.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

[FR Doc. 2012–6668 Filed 3–19–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–33–P

REPORTING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011 ON OFFSETS AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SALES OF DEFENSE; ARTICLES OR DEFENSE SERVICES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES OR FOREIGN FIRMS

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; annual reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: This notice is to remind the public that U.S. firms are required to report annually to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) information on contracts for the sale of defense articles or defense services to foreign countries or foreign firms that are subject to offsets agreements exceeding $5,000,000 in value. U.S. firms are also required to report annually to Commerce information on offsets agreements completed in performance of existing offsets commitments for which offsets credit of $250,000 or more has been claimed from the foreign representative. This year, such reports must include relevant information from calendar year 2011 and must be submitted to Commerce no later than June 15, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Reports should be addressed to “Offsets Program Manager, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, Bureau of Industry and Security, Room 3878, Washington, DC 20230.”


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 723(a)(1) of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (DPA) requires the President to submit an annual report to Congress on the impact of offsets on the U.S. defense industrial base. Section 723(a)(2) directs the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to prepare the President’s report and to develop and administer the regulations necessary to collect offsets data from U.S. defense exporters.

The authorities of the Secretary regarding offsets have been delegated to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security. The regulations associated with offsets reporting are set forth in part 701 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Offsets are compensation practices required as a condition of purchase in either government-to-government or commercial sales of defense articles and/or defense services, as defined by the Arms Export Control Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations. For example, a company that is selling a fleet of military aircraft to a foreign government may agree to offset the cost of the aircraft by providing training assistance to plant managers in the purchasing country. Although this distorts the true price of the aircraft, the foreign government may require this sort of extra compensation as a condition of awarding the contract to purchase the aircraft. As described in the regulations, U.S. firms are required to report information on contracts for the sale of defense articles or defense services to foreign countries or foreign firms that are subject to offsets agreements exceeding $5,000,000 in value. U.S. firms are also required to report annually on offsets transactions completed in performance of existing offsets commitments for which offsets credit of $250,000 or more has been claimed from the foreign representative.

Commerce’s annual report to Congress includes an aggregated summary of the data reported by industry in accordance with the offsets regulation and the DPA. As provided by section 723(c) of the DPA, BIS will not publicly disclose individual firm information it receives through offsets reporting unless the firm furnishing the information specifically authorizes public disclosure. The information collected is sorted and organized into an aggregate report of national offsets data, and therefore does not identify company-specific information.

In order to enable BIS to prepare the next annual offset report reflecting calendar year 2011 data, U.S. firms must submit required information on offsets agreements and offsets transactions from calendar year 2011 to BIS no later than June 15, 2012.

Dated: March 14, 2012.

Kevin J. Wolf,
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration


Stainless Steel Bar From Brazil, India, Japan, and Spain: Final Results of the Expedited Third Sunset Reviews of the Antidumping Duty Orders

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: On December 1, 2011, the Department of Commerce (the Department) initiated the third sunset reviews of the antidumping duty orders on stainless steel bar from Brazil, India, Japan, and Spain pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act), as amended. The Department has conducted expedited (120-day) sunset reviews of these orders. As a result of these sunset reviews, the Department finds that revocation of the antidumping duty orders would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping as indicated in the “Final Results of Reviews” section of this notice.

DATES: Effective Date: March 20, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bryan Hansen or Minoo Hatten, AD/CVD Operations, Office 1, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–3683 or (202) 482–1690, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 1, 2011, the Department published the notice of initiation of the sunset reviews of the antidumping duty orders on stainless steel bar from Brazil, India, Japan, and Spain pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act. See Initiation of Five-Year (“Sunset”) Review, 76 FR 74775 (December 1, 2011) (Notice of Initiation).

The Department received a notice of intent to participate in these sunset reviews from the domestic interested parties, Carpenter Technology Corporation, Crucible Industries LLC, Electralloy a G.O. Carlson Inc. Co., Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, Inc., and Valbruna Slater Stainless, Inc. (collectively, the domestic interested parties), within the 15-day period specified in 19 CFR 351.218(d)(1)(i).