DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Patents External Quality Survey

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on a proposed extension of an existing information collection.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 4, 2019 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov, or by fax to 202–395–5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

Marcie Lovett,
Records Management Division Director,
USPTO, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019–00610 Filed 1–31–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

I. Abstract

The USPTO developed the Patents External Quality Survey in 2006 as part of its quality improvement efforts. This survey gauges customer satisfaction with respect to examination quality. It uses a longitudinal, rotating panel design to assess changes in customer perceptions, identify areas for improvement, and pinpoint key areas for additional examiner training.

Participants of this survey include patent agents, attorneys, and other individuals from large domestic corporations (including those with 500+ employees), small and medium-size businesses, and universities and other non-profit research organizations. The USPTO also plans to survey independent inventors. The USPTO does not survey foreign entities.

From the Patent Application and Location Management (PALM) database, the USPTO draws a random sample of firms and entities that have filed more than 6 patent applications in a 12-month period. These firms and entities typically represent 95% of total domestic patent applications filed over the same period. The Patents External Quality Survey uses a rotating panel design in order to measure changes in the quality of USPTO’s work over time. Customers participate in two consecutive data collection periods (waves) before rotating out of the panel. Each wave is conducted over a two-month period. One wave occurs during the months of January and February and the other wave occurs during July and August. The rotating panel design means that for each wave, 50 percent of the panel have participated in a prior wave and 50 percent are being surveyed for the first time. At the next panel rotation, the 50 percent of customers who have participated in two consecutive waves will be dropped, and the panel will be refreshed.

Respondents receive the Patents External Quality Survey by mail and can respond either by mail or electronically on the USPTO website. A survey packet containing the questionnaire, a separate cover letter prepared by the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality, a postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelope, and instructions for completing the survey electronically are mailed to all respondents. A pre-notification letter, reminder/thank you postcards, and telephone calls are used to encourage a response.

This is a voluntary survey and all responses remain confidential. The collected data is not linked to the respondent, and contact information that is used for sampling purposes is maintained in a separate file from the quantitative data. Respondents are not required to provide any identifying information such as their name, address, or Social Security Number. Instead, in order to access and complete the online survey, respondents must use the username, password, and survey ID number provided by the USPTO.

II. Method of Collection

Electronically via email; by postal mail, facsimile, or hand delivery in paper form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651–0057.
IC Instruments and Forms: No forms.
Type of Review: Extension of an existing information collection.
Affected Public: Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and non-profit institutions.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,500 responses per year.
Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public 10 minutes (.17 hours) to respond to the survey, including the time to gather the necessary information along with completing and submitting the survey. The time per response, estimated annual responses, and estimated annual hour burden associated with each instrument in this collection are shown in the table below.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 416.67 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent (Hourly) Cost Burden: $182,501.46. The USPTO expects that attorneys will complete these applications. The professional hourly rate for attorneys is $438. The rate is established by estimates in the 2017 Report on the Economic Survey, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. Using this hourly rate, the USPTO estimates that the total respondent cost burden for this collection is $182,501.46 per year.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 416.67 hours.
Estimated Total Annual (Non-hour) 
Respondent Cost Burden: $0. There are 
no annual (non-hour) costs associated 
with this information collection. 
Respondents do not need to submit 
filings with these surveys. The 
USPTO covers the costs of all survey 
materials and provides postage-paid, 
pre-addressed return envelopes for the 
completed mail surveys so there are no 
postage costs associated with this 
information collection.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on:
(a) Whether the proposed collection of 
information is necessary for the proper 
performance of the functions of the 
agency, including whether the 
information shall have practical utility;
(b) the accuracy of the agency’s 
estimate of the burden (including 
hours and cost) of the proposed collection of 
information;
(c) ways to enhance the quality, 
utility, and clarity of the information to 
be collected; and
(d) ways to minimize the burden of 
the collection of information on 
respondents, e.g., the use of automated 
collection techniques or other forms of 
information technology.

Comments submitted in response to 
this notice will be summarized or 
included in the request for OMB 
approval of this information collection; 
they also will become a matter of public 
record.

Marcie Lovett, 
Director, Records and Information 
Governance Division, Office of the Chief 
Administrative Officer, USPTO.

[FR Doc. 2019–00611 Filed 1–31–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM 
PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR 
SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From 
People Who Are Blind or Severely 
Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and 
deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing 
to add a product and services to the 
Procurement List that will be furnished 
by nonprofit agencies employing 
persons who are blind or have other 
severe disabilities, and deletes products 
and services previously furnished by 
such agencies.

DATES: Comments must be received on 
or before: March 3, 2019.

ADDITIONS: The following products and 
services are proposed for addition to the 
Procurement List:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Burden</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Total cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MR 422—Grocery Shopping Tote Bag</td>
<td>3992</td>
<td>Laminated, Large, Summer</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>2,175</td>
<td>362.50</td>
<td>$438.00</td>
<td>$158,775.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR 412—Grocery Shopping Tote Bag</td>
<td>3992</td>
<td>Laminated, Spring, Purple, Small</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>54.17</td>
<td>$438.00</td>
<td>$23,726.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR 410—Bag, Shopping Tote, Laminated, Small</td>
<td>3992</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>2.500</td>
<td>416.67</td>
<td>$438.00</td>
<td>$182,501.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deletions

The following products and services 
are proposed for deletion from the 
Procurement List:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Burden</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Total cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MR 11301—Cooler, Styrofoam, Handle, 12 Qt</td>
<td>3992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR 11301—Cooler, Styrofoam, Handled, 12 Qt</td>
<td>3992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR 11301—Cooler, Styrofoam, Handle, 12 Qt</td>
<td>3992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rehabilitation Foundation, Huntsville, 
AL

Contracting Activity: DEPT OF THE 
ARMY, W2V6 USA ENG SPT CTR 
Huntsville

Service Type: Facilities Management and 
Related Services

Mandatory for: US Army, Eastern ARNG 
Aviation Training Site, Fort Indiantown 
Gap, Amnville, PA

Mandatory Source of Supply: Opportunity 
Center, Incorporated, Wilmington, DE

Contracting Activity: DEPT OF THE ARMY, 
W7NX USPFO ACTIVITY PA ARNG

Updated at 2019-02-01T08:45:00-05:00