National Energy Savings for GSILs and GSIL alternatives; 30 Years of Shipments (2023–2052) with “Table V.5—Cumulative National Energy Savings for GSILs and GSIL alternatives; 30 Years of Shipments (2023–2052)”;
6. On page 46853, in the 3rd column, correct the 3rd sentence in the 1st paragraph to read:
   “Table V.5 presents DOE’s projections of the NES for each TSL considered for GSILs, as well as considered GSIL alternatives.”;
7. On page 46853, in the 3rd column, correct the 5th sentence in the 1st paragraph to read:
   “In addition to GSIL energy savings, Table V.5 illustrates the increased energy consumption of consumers who transition to out-of-scope lamps, including CFL, LED, and incandescent alternatives, because more consumers purchase these lamps at TSL 1 relative to the no-standards case.”;
8. On page 46854, in the 3rd column, correct the 1st sentence in the 1st paragraph to read:
   “The NES sensitivity analysis results based on a 9-year analytical period are presented in Table V.6.”;
9. On page 46854, in Table V.7—Cumulative Net Present Value of Quantifiable Consumer Benefits for GSILs and GSIL Alternatives; 30 Years of Shipments (2023–2052), replace the values “5.436” and “4.173” in the column headed “TSL 1” with “5.434” and “4.171” respectively;
10. On page 46855, in the 3rd column, correct the 1st sentence in the 3rd paragraph to read:
   “Table V.9 and Table V.10 present the results of the industry cash flow analysis for GSIL manufacturers under the preservation of gross margin and the technology specific markup scenarios.”;
11. On page 46855, in Table V.9—Manufacturer Impact Analysis for GSILs—Preservation of Gross Margin Markup Scenario, replace the values “(5.0)” and “(1.6)” in the column headed “TSL 1” with “(5.3)” and “(1.7)” respectively;
12. On page 46856, in Table V.10—Manufacturer Impact Analysis for GSILs—Technology Specific Markup Scenario, replace the value “(3.7)” in the column headed “TSL 1” with “(3.9)”;
13. On page 46856 in the 1st column, correct the 1st sentence of the 1st paragraph to read:
   “At TSL 1, DOE estimates that INPV will range from $5.3 million to $3.9 million, or a decrease in INPV of 1.7 to 1.2 percent.”;
14. On page 46856, in the 1st column, correct the 5th sentence in the 5th paragraph to read:
   “Under the consumer choice analysis, the NPV of consumer benefits at TSL 1 would be $2.241 billion using a discount rate of 7 percent, and $4.171 billion using a discount rate of 3 percent.”;
15. On page 46858 in the 2nd column, correct the 4th sentence of the 1st paragraph to read:
   “At TSL 1, DOE estimates that INPV will decrease between $5.3 million to $3.9 million, or a decrease in INPV of 1.7 to 1.2 percent.”

**Procedural Issues and Regulatory Review**

DOE has concluded that the initial determinations made pursuant to the various procedural requirements applicable to the September 2019 NOPD remain unchanged for this NOPD technical correction. These initial determinations are set forth in the September 2019 NOPD. 84 FR 46830, 46858–46860.

Signed in Washington, DC, on September 10, 2019.

Alexander N. Fitzsimmons,
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary For Energy Efficiency, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 2019–20399 Filed 9–23–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

U.S. Copyright Office

37 CFR Part 210

[Docket No. 2019–5]

**Music Modernization Act Implementing Regulations for the Blanket License for Digital Uses and Mechanical Licensing Collective**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

**ACTION:** Notification of inquiry.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Copyright Office is issuing a notification of inquiry regarding the Musical Works Modernization Act, title I of the Orrin G. Hatch–Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act. Title I establishes a blanket compulsory license, which digital music providers may obtain to make and deliver digital phonorecords of musical works. The blanket license, which will be administered by a mechanical licensing collective, will become available on January 1, 2021. The MMA specifically directs the Copyright Office to adopt a number of regulations to govern the new blanket licensing regime, including regulations regarding notices of license, notices of nonblanket activity, usage reports and adjustments, information to be included in the mechanical licensing collective’s database, database usability, interoperability, and usage restrictions, and the handling of confidential information. The statute also vests the Office with general authority to adopt such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate this new blanket licensing structure. To promulgate these regulations, the Office seeks public comment regarding the subjects of inquiry discussed in this notification.

**DATES:** Initial written comments must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 8, 2019. Written reply comments must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 9, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** For reasons of government efficiency, the Copyright Office is using the regulations.gov system for the submission and posting of public comments in this proceeding. All comments are therefore to be submitted electronically through regulations.gov. Specific instructions for submitting comments are available on the Copyright Office’s website at https://www.copyright.gov/rulemaking/mma-implementation/. If electronic submission of comments is not feasible due to lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please contact the Office using the contact information below for special instructions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Regan A. Smith, General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights, by email at regans@copyright.gov, Anna Chauvet, Associate General Counsel, by email at achau@copyright.gov, or Jason E. Sloan, Assistant General Counsel, by email at jslo@copyright.gov. Each can be contacted by telephone by calling (202) 707–8350.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Background

**A. The Music Modernization Act and the Copyright Office’s Regulatory Authority**

On October 11, 2018, the president signed into law the Orrin G. Hatch–Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act (‘‘MMA’’).1 Title I of the MMA, the Musical Works Modernization Act, substantially modifies the compulsory ‘‘mechanical’’ license for making and distributing phonorecords of nondramatic musical works under 17

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The new blanket license will become available upon the statutory license availability date (i.e., January 1, 2021). Before then, the MMA “creates a transition period in order to move from the current work-by-work license to the new blanket license.” On and after the license availability date, a compulsory license to make and distribute DPDs will generally only be available through the new blanket license, apart from a limited exception for record companies to continue using the song-by-song licensing process to make and distribute permanent downloads embodying a specific individual musical work (called an “individual download license”).

As previously detailed by the Office, the MLC, through its board of directors and task-specific committees, is responsible for a variety of duties under the blanket license, including receiving usage reports from digital music providers, collecting and distributing royalties associated with those uses, identifying musical works embodied in particular sound recordings, administering the process by which copyright owners can claim ownership of musical works (and shares of such works), and establishing a musical works database relevant to these activities. By statute, digital music providers will bear the reasonable costs of establishing and operating the MLC through an administrative assessment, to be determined, if necessary, by the Copyright Royalty Judges (“CRJs”). The MMA also permits the Register to designate a digital licensee coordinator (“DLC”) to represent licensees in the assessment proceeding, to serve as a non-voting member of the MLC, and to carry out other functions.

Effective July 8, 2019, following a comprehensive public process, the Register, with the approval of the Librarian of Congress, selected and designated entities and their individual board members as the MLC and DLC, respectively. The Office also adopted technical amendments to its relevant pre-MMA regulations, including those pertaining to NOIs and statements of account, to harmonize them with the MMA’s requirements. Those amendments were generally directed at the present transition period before the blanket license becomes available. They did not speak to compulsory licensing of DPDs under the new blanket license, which is addressed through this notification of inquiry.

The MMA enumerates several regulations that the Copyright Office is specifically directed to promulgate to govern the new blanket licensing regime, including with respect to notices of license, notices of nonblanket activity, reports of usage, database information, database usability, interoperability, and usage restrictions, and the handling of confidential information. Additionally, Congress invested the Copyright Office with “broad regulatory authority” to conduct such proceedings and adopt such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the provisions of the [MMA pertaining to the blanket license].

The legislative history contemplates that the Office will “thoroughly review[]” policies and procedures established by the MLC and its three committees, and promulgate regulations that “balance[] the need to protect the public’s interest with the need to let the new collective operate without over-regulation.” Further
states that “[t]he Copyright Office has the knowledge and expertise regarding music licensing through its past rulemakings and recent assistance to the Committee[s] during the drafting of this legislation.” 21 Together, the statute and legislative history make clear that Congress intended for the Office to oversee and regulate the MLC as necessary and appropriate, 22 as well as periodically review that designation. 23 Indeed, Congress acknowledged that “[a]lthough the legislation provides specific criteria for the collective to operate, it is to be expected that situations will arise that were not contemplated by the legislation,” and that “[t]he Office is expected to use its best judgement in determining the appropriate steps in those situations.” 24

The Office has recently addressed adjacent matters in two proceedings, concerning updating of the relevant section 115 regulations to account for the current interim period and the Register’s designation of the MLC and DLC. 25 The designation of the MLC received multiple public comments, some with respect to issues such as the MLC’s prospective governance practices and performance of its duty to eventually distribute unclaimed accrued royalties following a proscribed holding period, that the Office noted at the time were also able to be addressed in additional ways by the statute, including this delegation of regulatory authority. 26 Taking seriously Congress’s instructions to exercise its regulatory authority “to ensure the fair treatment of interested parties” by the MLC, 27 in designating the MLC and DLC, the Office stated that it “intends to conduct its oversight role in a fair and impartial manner; songwriters are encouraged to participate in these future rulemakings.” 28

B. Overview of the Rulemaking Process

To establish necessary and appropriate regulations to govern the new blanket licensing system, the Office now seeks public comment on the subjects discussed below. The Copyright Office is issuing this notification of inquiry as the first step in promulgating the regulations required by the MMA to govern the blanket license regime. After reviewing the comments received in response, the Office plans to publish multiple notices of proposed rulemaking, each focusing on one or more of the regulatory categories discussed below. The Office has concluded that this phasing is the best way for it to efficiently and thoughtfully conduct the relevant regulatory proceedings in light of the upcoming license availability date and the Office’s available resources. To aid the Office’s review, it is requested that where a submission responds to more than one of the below categories, it be divided into discrete sections that have clear headings to indicate the category being discussed in each section. Comments addressing a single category should also have a clear heading to indicate which category it discusses.

In responding to this notification, commenters are encouraged to indicate whether any of the below categories should be prioritized over others with respect to the order in which the Office addresses them. For example, it may be beneficial to establish rules governing the musical works database and reports of usage early on to aid the MLC in building its database infrastructure and developing related IT systems. As another example, establishing confidentiality rules sooner rather than later may help the MLC and DLC share information as effectively and efficiently as possible as they both get ready for the license availability date. On the other hand, for example, while any relevant regulatory activity regarding the MLC’s obligation to distribute unclaimed accrued royalties (e.g., engaging in good-faith efforts to publicize notice relating to pending distributions at least ninety days in advance) 29 would relate to important, core responsibilities of the MLC, it appears logical to prioritize other regulatory provisions directed at more imminent MLC functions. Unlike most of the other subjects discussed below, which must be addressed before the January 1, 2021 license availability date, no unclaimed accrued royalties may be distributed until January 1, 2023, at the earliest. 30 Further, the Office is separately required by the MMA to undertake a study, to be concluded by July 2021, that recommends best practices for the MLC to identify and locate copyright owners with unclaimed royalties, encourage copyright owners to claim their royalties, and reduce the incidence of unclaimed royalties. 31 The Office plans to commence that study this winter and looks forward to having broad industry participation, including by interested songwriters, regarding this important issue.

The Office welcomes parties to file joint comments on issues of common agreement and consensus. 32 The Office will also consider how to utilize informal meetings to gather additional information on discrete issues prior to publishing notices of proposed rulemaking by establishing guidelines for ex parte communications. Relevant guidelines will be issued at a later date on https://www.copyright.gov/rulemaking/mma-implementation/, and will be similar to those imposed in other proceedings. 33 Any such communications will be on the record to ensure the greatest possible transparency, but would only supplement, not substitute for, the written record.

While all public comments are welcome, as applicable, the Office encourages parties to provide specific proposed regulatory language for the Office to consider and for others to comment upon. Similarly, commenters replying to proposed language may want to offer alternate language for consideration.

Commenters are reminded that while the Office’s regulatory authority is relatively broad, 34 it is obviously constrained by the law Congress enacted; the Office can fill statutory gaps, but will not entertain proposals that conflict with the statute. 35

22 The Office notes that in the MLC designation proceeding many commenters supported the Office performing a meaningful oversight role to the extent permissible under the statute. 84 FR at 32280 n.120.
24 84 FR at 32283.
26 See 84 FR 32274; 84 FR 10685; 83 FR 63061.
27 See 84 FR 32283.
29 See, e.g., 83 FR at 65753–54 (identifying guidelines for ex parte communications in MLC and DLC designation proceeding); 82 FR 49550, 49563 (Oct. 26, 2017) (identifying guidelines for ex parte communications in section 1201 rulemaking); 82 FR 58153, 58154 (Dec. 11, 2017) (identifying guidelines for ex parte communications in rulemaking regarding cable, satellite, and DART license reporting practices).
30 See, e.g., Joint Comments of Nat’l Music Publishers’ Ass’n & Dig. Media Ass’n Submitted in Response to Copyright Royalty Board’s November 5, 2018, Notification of Inquiry (Dec. 10, 2018) (describing the need to protect the public’s interest with the need to let the new collective operate without over-regulation”).
31 See, e.g., Nat’l Cable & Telecommunications Ass’n v. Brand X Internet Servs., 545 U.S. 967, 960 (2005) (‘‘[A]mbiguities in statutes within an agency’s
II. Subjects of Inquiry

A. Notices of License and Nonblanket Activity

The MMA requires entities engaging in covered activities to file notice with the MLC regarding such activities; the notice will vary depending upon whether or not the entity is seeking a blanket license with respect to this activity. The Copyright Office must prescribe regulations regarding the form and content for both notices of license and notices of nonblanket activity.

1. Notices of License

To obtain a blanket license, a digital music provider must submit a notice of license ("NOL") to the MLC "that specifies the particular covered activities in which the digital music provider seeks to engage."36 The MLC is to "receive, review, and confirm or reject notices of license from digital music providers," and is required to "maintain a current, publicly accessible list of blanket licenses that includes contact information for the licensees and the effective dates of such licenses."37 The statute requires that NOLs "comply in form and substance with requirements that the Register of Copyrights shall establish by regulation."38 The Office seeks public input on any issues that should be considered relating to the form and substance of NOLs, including but not limited to the necessary level of detail (e.g., whether NOLs should generally be similar in scope to the Office’s current notice of use form under sections 112 and 114,39 and more specifically, whether a digital music provider should be required or encouraged to describe its interactive streaming service in additional detail, such as by providing the specific types of offerings comprising that service).

2. Notices of Nonblanket Activity

Under the MMA, certain entities engaging in covered activities pursuant to voluntary licenses or individual download licenses that meet certain criteria must comply with various obligations related to the blanket compulsory license even though they do not operate under a blanket license.40 These significant nonblanket licensees ("SNBLs") must submit to the MLC notices of nonblanket activity ("NNBAs"), reports of usage, and any required payments of the administrative assessment.41 According to the legislative history, SNBLs are required to make these filings and contribute to the administrative assessment "because they are presumed to benefit from" the new musical works database that the MLC is tasked with maintaining and "as a way to avoid parties attempting to avoid funding of the mechanical licensing collective by engaging in direct deals outside the blanket license."42

Specifically, the statute requires SNBLs to submit NNBAs to the MLC no later than forty-five days after the license availability date, or forty-five days after the end of the first full month in which an entity initially qualifies as a SNBL, whichever occurs later.43 NNBAs are provided "for purposes of notifying the mechanical licensing collective that the licensee has been engaging in covered activities."44 The MLC will "receive notices of nonblanket activity from significant nonblanket licensees," and is required to "maintain a current, publicly accessible list of notices of nonblanket activity that includes contact information for significant nonblanket licensees and the dates of receipt of such notices."45 The statute also requires that NNBAs "comply in form and substance with requirements that the Register of Copyrights shall establish by regulation."46 The Office seeks public input on any issues that should be considered relating to the form and substance of NNBAs, including, for example, whether an N NBA should be required to be updated or renewed, and the level of description of activity it should contain.

B. Data Collection and Delivery Efforts

While the MLC is ultimately tasked with the core project of matching musical works to sound recordings embodying those works, and identifying and locating the copyright owners of those works (and shares thereof), the MLC also outlines roles for certain digital music providers and copyright owners to facilitate this task by collecting and providing related data to the MLC.

1. Collection Efforts by Digital Music Providers

Digital music providers using the blanket license must "engage in good-faith, commercially reasonable efforts to obtain from sound recording copyright owners and other licensors of sound recordings made available through the service of such digital music provider information concerning": (1) Sound recording copyright owners, producers, International Standard Recording Codes ("ISRCs"), and other information commonly used in the industry to identify sound recordings and match them to the musical works the sound recordings embody; and (2) the authorship and ownership of musical works, including songwriters, publisher names, ownership shares, and International Standard Musical Work Codes ("ISWCs").47

This obligation is directly connected to the reports of usage discussed below, for which much of the statutorily enumerated information is only required "to the extent acquired by the digital music provider in connection with its use of sound recordings of musical works to engage in covered activities, including pursuant to [this obligation]."48 Thus, it is important that digital music providers genuinely engage in appropriate efforts to obtain this information both from record labels and other licensors of sound recordings (e.g., other distributors of sound recordings such as TuneCore, CD Baby, or DistroKid). The Office seeks public input as to whether it is necessary and appropriate for the Office to promulgate any regulations concerning this provision, including but not limited to what constitutes "good-faith, commercially reasonable efforts."

2. Collection Efforts by Copyright Owners

Relatively, the MMA also obligates musical work copyright owners with works that are listed in the MLC’s database to “engage in commercially reasonable efforts” to provide to the MLC for the database, if not already listed, "information regarding the names of the sound recordings in which that copyright owner’s musical works (or shares thereof) are embodied, to the extent practicable."49 The Office seeks
public input as to whether it is necessary and appropriate for the Office to promulgate any regulations concerning this provision, including but not limited to what types of efforts would be “commercially reasonable efforts.”

C. Usage and Reporting Requirements

As noted, following the filing of a notice of license, a digital music provider making use of the blanket license must engage in efforts to collect information to assist in matching copyright owners to musical works made available through its service, and report usage of such works to the MLC. The digital music provider must also pay appropriate royalties to the MLC under the blanket license. Because the usage reports will convey a large quantity of data central to the MLC’s core administrative duties of matching musical works to sound recordings, and copyright owners to musical works, as well as collecting and distributing accrued royalties for uses of these works under the blanket license, these usage reports may play a key role in the MMA’s overall legal framework to provide for the matching of songs played on digital music services to copyright owners, locating the owners, and ensuring they are paid their earned royalties.

1. Reports of Usage and Payment—Digital Music Providers

Among other things, the blanket compulsory license is conditioned upon the digital music provider reporting and paying royalties to the MLC under the blanket license on a monthly basis, due forty-five calendar days after the end of the monthly reporting period. The MMA requires that reporting and payment be done in accordance with both sections 115(c)(2)(I) and 115(d)(4)(A)(ii), which are discussed below.

First, section 115(c)(2)(I) is the generally applicable reporting and payment provision for the compulsory license, augmented by section 115(d)(4)(A) with respect to the blanket compulsory license specifically. The former section predates the MMA and applies to both blanket and non-blanket compulsory licenses, except that statements are due within twenty days for non-blanket compulsory licenses rather than forty-five days. Each monthly payment shall be made under oath and shall comply with requirements that the Register of Copyrights shall prescribe by

regulation.” In addition, the Office must also “prescribe regulations under which detailed cumulative annual statements of account, certified by a certified public accountant, shall be filed for every compulsory license.” Section 115(c)(2)(I) further provides that “[t]he regulations covering both the monthly and the annual statements of account shall prescribe the form, content, and manner of certification with respect to the number of records made and the number of records distributed.” The Office’s current statement of account regulations promulgated under section 115(c)(2)(I) are located in 37 CFR part 210, subpart B. After passage of the MMA, the Office made technical amendments to those regulations to conform them to the MMA with respect to non-blanket compulsory licenses. The amendments made clear that those regulations will not apply to the blanket license. While the Office plans to now establish separate regulations governing the blanket license, there may be existing provisions in the current regulations in part 210 that would also be relevant to the blanket license that commenters may wish to evaluate and identify for the Office to consider carrying over.

Second, section 115(d)(4)(A)(ii) addresses submissions made to the MLC by digital music providers under the blanket license, calling them “reports of usage” rather than “statements of account.” This provision contains additional requirements not listed in section 115(c)(2)(I). Reports of usage “shall provide usage data for musical works used under the blanket license and usage data for musical works used in covered activities under voluntary licenses and individual download licenses.” Reports must contain the following information: (1) Identifying information for the sound recording embodying a musical work, including sound recording name, featured artist, and, to the extent acquired by the digital music provider in connection with its engagement in covered activities, sound recording copyright owner, producer, ISRC, and other information commonly used to identify sound recordings and match them to musical works; (2) to the extent acquired by the digital music provider in the metadata provided by licensors of sound recordings in connection with its engagement in covered activities, information concerning authorship and ownership of the applicable rights in the musical work embodied in the sound recording (including each songwriter, publisher name, and respective ownership share) and the ISWC; and (3) the number of DPDs of the sound recording, including limited downloads and interactive streams. Legislative history contemplates that reports “should be consistent with then-current industry practices regarding how such limited downloads and interactive streams are tracked and reported.” In addition, reports of usage must also identify and provide contact information for all musical work copyright owners for works embodied in sound recordings as to which a voluntary, rather than a blanket, license is in effect with respect to the uses being reported.

In addition to the statutorily-prescribed categories, reports of usage must also contain “such other information as the Register of Copyrights shall require by regulation.” These reports of usage must be “in a machine-readable format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the mechanical licensing collective and meets the requirements of regulations adopted by the Register of Copyrights.”

The new blanket licensing framework was adopted against the widespread practice of voluntary or “direct” licensing of mechanical rights through an intermediary agency such as Harry Fox Agency or by the music publisher directly. In responding to this notification, the Office solicits information regarding how industry customs regarding voluntary licensing practices that vary from the prior compulsory licensing regulations may be relevant to establishing future rules for reports of usage, including suggestions regarding any additional data, beyond the statutorily required data discussed above, the Office should proscribe to be included in usage reports.

Finally, the Office shall also adopt regulations “regarding adjustments to reports of usage by digital music

53 Id. at 115(c)(2)(I).
54 Id. at 115(c)(2)(II).
55 Id. at 115(d)(4)(A)(ii).
56 Id. at 115(d)(4)(A)(iii).
57 37 CFR 210.11 (“This subpart shall not apply where a digital music provider reports and pays royalties under a blanket license under 17 U.S.C. 115(d)(4)(A)(II).”).
providers, including mechanisms to account for overpayment and underpayment of royalties in prior periods.”

The Office seeks public input on any issues that should be considered relating to reports of usage and payment to be provided to the MLC by digital music providers under the blanket license, including specifically adjustments to these reports. These issues include specific information technology requirements for these reports, as well as any additional requirements relating to cumulative annual statements of account.

2. Reports of Usage—SNBLs

SNBLs are also required to “provide monthly reports of usage” to the MLC within forty-five days after the end of the month being reported, “containing[ing] the information described in [section 115(d)(4)(A)(iii)]” and “accompanied by any required payment of the administrative assessment.” The Office seeks public input on any issues that should be considered relating to reports of usage to be provided to the MLC by SNBLs, including but not limited to how such reports may differ from the reports filed by digital music providers under the blanket license.

3. Records of Use Maintenance and Access

Relatedly, the MMA directs the Copyright Office to adopt regulations “setting forth requirements under which records of use shall be maintained and made available to the mechanical licensing collective by digital music providers engaged in covered activities under a blanket license.” The Office seeks public input on any issues that should be considered relating to the maintenance and access of such records of use, which presumably could be used to substantiate and interpret the data included on usage reports.

D. Transfer and Reporting of Unclaimed Accrued Royalties to the MLC at the End of the Transition Period

A related topic concerns the historical reporting that digital music providers will provide to the MLC when transferring and reporting to the MLC any unclaimed accrued royalties remaining with digital music providers at the end of the transition period. As noted above, the Office previously engaged in a rulemaking to address the current transition period before the blanket license becomes available.

The MMA requires that within forty-five days after the license availability date, a digital music provider seeking to avail itself of the MMA’s limitation on liability must transfer all accrued royalties for any unmatched musical works (or shares) to the MLC “accompanied by a cumulative statement of account that includes all of the information that would have been provided to the copyright owner had the digital music provider been serving monthly statements of account on the copyright owner from initial use of the work in accordance with [section 115] and applicable regulations.” The Office adopted regulations that follow the statute, specifying that digital music providers must pay royalties and provide cumulative statements of account to the MLC in compliance with the Office’s preexisting monthly statement of account regulations in 37 CFR 210.16.

The Office further required that these statements include “a clear identification of the total period covered by the cumulative statement and the total royalty payable for the period.”

While the Office enacted the rule pursuant to a public process, the Office did not receive any comments.

Throughout the transition period, including during the MLC designation proceeding, there has been persistent concern about the “black box” of unclaimed royalties, including its amount and treatment by digital music providers and the MLC. Consequently, the Office is providing another opportunity for the public to comment on whether there should be any adjustments to the current regulations governing the cumulative statements of account required by the statute to accompany unclaimed royalties that are to be transferred from digital music providers to the MLC within forty-five days of the license availability date. The Office seeks public input on any issues that should be considered relating to the transfer and reporting of unclaimed royalties by digital music providers to the MLC.

E. Musical Works Database Information

A core aspect of the MLC’s responsibilities includes identifying musical works and copyright owners, matching them to sound recordings (and addressing disputes), and ensuring that songwriters and other copyright owners get paid the royalties they are due. To that end, the MLC will establish and maintain a free public database of musical work ownership information that also identifies the sound recordings in which the musical works are embodied. As the legislative history explains:

For far too long, it has been difficult to identify the copyright owner of most copyrighted works, especially in the music industry where works are routinely commercialized before all of the rights have been cleared and documented. This has led to significant challenges in ensuring fair and timely payment to all creators even when the licensee can identify the proper individuals to pay. With millions of songs now available to subscribers worldwide, technology also has a role to play through digital fingerprinting of a sound recording. However, there is no reliable, public database to link sound recordings with their underlying musical works. Unmatched works routinely occur as a result of different spellings of artist names and song titles. Even differing punctuation in the name of a work has been enough to create unmatched works.

Music metadata has more often been seen as a competitive advantage for the party that controls the database, rather than as a resource for building an industry on.... Music metadata has more often been seen as a competitive advantage for the party that controls the database, rather than as a resource for building an industry on....

With respect to musical works that have been matched to copyright owners, by statute, the MLC’s database must include: (1) The title of the musical work; (2) the copyright owner of the work (or share thereof), and the ownership percentage of that owner; (3) contact information for such copyright owner; and (4) to the extent reasonably available to the MLC, (a) the ISWC for the work, (b) identifying information for sound recordings in which the musical work is embodied, including the name of the sound recording, featured artist, sound recording copyright owner, producer, ISRC, and other information commonly used to assist in associating sound recordings with musical works.

With respect to unmatched musical works, by statute, the database must include, to the extent reasonably available to the MLC: (1) The title of the musical work; (2) the ownership percentage for which an owner has not been identified; (3) If a copyright owner

67 See id.
68 S. Rep. No. 115–339, at 24–25 (“The Register shall specify information technology requirements of such reports along with the maintenance of the records of use.”).
has been identified but not located, the identity of such owner and the
ownership percentage of that owner; (4) identifying information for sound
recordings in which the work is
embodied, including sound recording
ame, featured artist, sound recording
copyright owner, producer, ISRC, and
other information commonly used to
assist in associating sound recordings
with musical works; and (5) any
additional information reported to the
MLC that may assist in identifying the
work.80

For both categories (matched and
unmatched works), the MLC’s database
must also include “such other
information” “as the Register of
Copyrights may prescribe by
regulation.” 81 The legislative history
provides that the Office “shall use its
judgement to determine what is an
appropriate expansion of the required
fields, but shall not adopt new fields
that have reasonably accessible and
used within the industry unless there is widespread support for
the inclusion of such fields.” 82 The
legislative history also notes specifically that the Office “may at some point wish to
consider . . . whether standardized identifiers for individuals would be
appropriate, or even audio fingerprints.” 83

Issues related to the information in
the musical works database are closely
connected, and equally important, to
questions regarding the data collection
efforts and reporting by digital music
providers that will help populate the
database. Much of the required data will
likely come from, or at least be able to
come with, the reports of usage
submitted to the MLC by digital music
providers, and so similar issues may be
addressed in the promulgation of these
related regulations, such as those
concerning what information is
considered standard or reasonably
available. The Office seeks public input
on any issues that should be considered relating to information to be included in the MLC’s musical works database,
including what, if any, specific
additional categories of information
might be appropriate to prescribe under
these standards, keeping in mind the
interrelationship between this
information and the above-discussed
data collection efforts and usage
reporting.

80 Id. at 115(d)(3)(E)(iii).
81 Id. at 115(d)(3)(E)(vi).
339, at 8; Conf. Rep. at 7.
339, at 8; Conf. Rep. at 7.

F. Musical Works Database Usability,
Interoperability, and Usage Restrictions

The MMA also directs the Copyright
Office to “establish requirements by
regulations to ensure the usability,
interoperability, and usage restrictions
of the [MLC’s] musical works
database.” 84 The statute provides that
the database must “be made available to
members of the public in a searchable,
online format, free of charge.” 85 The
MLC must make the data available “in
a bulk, machine-readable format,
through a widely available software
application,” to digital music providers
operating under valid NOLs, compliant
SNBLs, authorized vendors of such
digital music providers or SNBLs, and
the Copyright Office, free of charge, and
to “[a]ny other organization or entity for:
‘due . . .’” 86 not to exceed the marginal cost to
the mechanical licensing collective of
providing the database to such person or
entity.” 87 The legislative history adds
that “[i]ndividual lookups of works
shall be free although the collective may
implement reasonable steps to block
efforts to bypass the marginal cost
recovery for bulk access if it appears
that one or more entities are attempting
to download the database in bulk
through repeated queries.” 88 The
legislative history also states that “there
shall be no requirement that a database
user must register or otherwise turn over
personal information in order to obtain
the free access required by the
legislation.” 89

During the MLC designation
proceeding, Mechanical Licensing
Collective, Inc. (“MLCI”), the entity
designated as the MLC, noted the
importance of compatibility with
existing music industry standards,
including communicating information in
accordance with the Common Works
Registration (“CWR”) format and DDEX
standards, and a willingness to explore
other relevant existing or emerging
standards or open protocols.90 MLCI
stated that it “strongly support[s] the
adoption of standards, formats, and
frameworks that allow information to be
easily and accurately shared throughout
the industry,” and that “good systems
functioning and architectural practices
instruct that components should have

85 Id. at 115(d)(3)(E)(v).
339, at 8–9; Conf. Rep. at 7.
339, at 9; Conf. Rep. at 7.
89 84 FR at 32287 (citing Proposal of Mechanical
Licensing Collective, Inc. Submitted in Response to
MLC Proposals).
The Office seeks public input as to potential regulations regarding what reporting should be required of the MLC when distributing royalties to matched copyright owners in the ordinary course under section 115(d)(3)(G)(ii), as well as input concerning the timing of such regular distributions. The Office also welcomes input on any issues that should be considered relating to the cumulative statements of account to be provided under section 115(d)(3)(ii), relating to payments due to copyright owners of a previously unmatched work (or share thereof) who is later identified and located by the MLC, including what additional material, if any, may be required in these statements as compared to routine periodic distributions for already matched works.

H. Treatment of Confidential and Other Sensitive Information

The MMA broadly directs the Copyright Office to “adopt regulations to provide for the appropriate procedures to ensure that confidential, private, proprietary, or privileged information contained in the records of the mechanical licensing collective and digital licensee coordinator is not improperly disclosed or used, including through any disclosure or use by the board of directors or personnel of either entity, and specifically including the unclaimed royalties oversight committee and the dispute resolution committee of the mechanical licensing collective.”

The MMA additionally makes several explicit references to the Office’s regulations governing the treatment of confidential and other sensitive information in various circumstances, including with respect to: (1) “all material records of the operations of the mechanical licensing collective”; (2) steps the MLC must take to “safeguard the confidentiality and security of usage, financial, and other sensitive data used to compute market shares” when distributing unclaimed accrued royalties; (3) steps the MLC and DLC must take to “safeguard the confidentiality and security of financial and other sensitive data shared” by the MLC to the DLC about SNBLs; voluntary licenses administered by the MLC; (4) examination of the MLC’s “books, records, and data” pursuant to audits by copyright owners; and (5) examination of digital music providers’ “books, records, and data” pursuant to audits by the MLC.

The Office seeks public input on any issues that should be considered relating to the treatment of confidential and other sensitive information as it relates to the blanket license regime, including but not limited to the interplay between the Office’s regulations and the use of nondisclosure agreements, confidential information relating to SNBLs, disclosure of information through the MLC’s unclaimed royalties oversight committee and dispute resolution committee, and the information that can be shared by and among board and committee members or with the general public.

I. Additional MLC Oversight

As discussed above, the statute and legislative history make plain that Congress expects the Copyright Office to oversee and regulate the MLC as necessary and appropriate. For example, the legislative history contemplates that the Office will exercise its authority to both “thoroughly review[ ]” policies and procedures established by the MLC and promulgate regulations that “balance[ ] the need to protect the public’s interest with the need to let the new collective operate without over-regulation.” Moreover, the statute requires the MLC to “ensure that [its] policies and practices . . . are transparent and accountable.”

In the MLC designation proceeding, some concerns raised by commentators with respect to oversight related to conflicts of interest, representation, and diversity. The Office observed that the designated MLC has “pledged to operate under bylaws that will address conflicts of interest and appropriate disclosures in accordance with applicable state laws and professional duties of care.” The Office stated that it “expects ongoing regulatory and other implementation efforts to . . . extenuate the risk of self-interest,” and that “the Register intends to exercise her oversight role as it pertains to matters of governance.” Additionally, the Office stated that it “intends to work with the MLC to help it achieve the goals of engagement with a broad spectrum of musical work copyright owners, including from those communities” for the Office’s review of MLC policies and procedures (including its bylaws) and any subsequent modifications to such policies and procedures.

J. Public Notice and Distribution of Unclaimed Accrued Royalties

As discussed above, the Office is specifically required by the MMA to undertake a separate study and to provide a report by July 2021 recommending best practices for the MLC to identify and locate copyright owners with unclaimed royalties, encourage copyright owners to claim their royalties, and reduce the incidence of unclaimed royalties. The Office plans to commence that study this winter and looks forward to having broad industry participation, including by interested songwriters, regarding this important issue. Unlike most of the other subjects discussed above, which must be addressed before the January 1, 2021 license availability date, no unclaimed accrued royalties may be distributed until January 1, 2023, at the earliest.

Accordingly, while the Office will accept information regarding whether and how to promulgate regulations regarding the MLC’s obligation to distribute unclaimed accrued royalties (e.g., rules pertaining to the requirement...
that the MLC engage in good-faith efforts to publicize notice relating to pending distributions at least ninety days in advance). 109 Commenters should be aware that the Office is tentatively inclined to wait until after the policy study is underway to finalize rules with respect to this important duty of the MLC. The Office anticipates that those seeking to comment on this issue will have ample opportunity to do so through the study and other future activities.

K. Other Subjects

The Copyright Office invites public comment on any other issues relevant to the blanket compulsory license regime that commenters believe are within and appropriate for the Office’s regulatory authority.

Dated: September 16, 2019.

Regan A. Smith,
General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights.

[FR Doc. 2019–20318 Filed 9–23–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 1410–30–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 9, 12, 13, 43, and 52
[FAR Case 2018–021; Docket FAR–2019–0031; Sequence 1]
RIN 9000–AN79
Federal Acquisition Regulation: Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: DoD, GSA, and NASA are proposing to amend the FAR to implement 10 U.S.C. 983, which prohibits the award of certain Federal contracts to institutions of higher education that prohibit Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units or military recruiting on campus.

Both DoD and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have previously implemented agency-specific clauses that prohibit the award of certain Federal contracts to institutions of higher education that prohibit ROTC units or military recruiting on campus. DoD published an interim rule in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) on Institutions of Higher Education, 65 FR 2056, on January 13, 2000, to implement section 549 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2000. Section 549 amends 10 U.S.C. 983 to prohibit DoD from providing funds by contract or grant to an institution of higher education (including any subelement of that institution) if the Secretary of Defense determines that the institution (or any subelement of the institution) has a policy or practice that prohibits, or in effect prevents, Senior ROTC units or military recruiting on campus.

DoD then published a final rule on Military Recruiting and Reserve Officer Training Corps Program Access to Institutions of Higher Education, 73 FR 16525, on March 28, 2008, at 32 CFR part 216. The rule implemented 10 U.S.C. 983, as amended by the Ronald W. Reagan NDAA for Fiscal Year 2005 (Pub. L. 108–375, October 28, 2004). The DoD rule clarified access to campuses, access to students and access to directory information on students for the purposes of military recruiting, and that access to campuses and students on campuses shall be provided in a manner that is at least equal in quality and scope to that provided to any other employer. DoD later published a DFARS final rule in the Federal Register, 77 FR 19128, on March 30, 2012, to separate provisions and clauses that were previously combined in order to comply with DFARS drafting conventions. This final rule removed the representation from 252.209–7005, Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus, and added a new provision at 252.209–7003, Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus—Representation.

Similar to DoD, DHS published a rule on December 4, 2003, 68 FR 67868 at 67891 to add a new clause in its supplement at Homeland Security Acquisition Regulation (HSAR) 3052.209–71, Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus, to implement these requirements.

This proposed rule would implement 10 U.S.C. 983, which prohibits the award of certain Federal contracts with covered funds to institutions of higher education that prohibit ROTC units or military recruiting on campus. “Covered funds” is defined in 10 U.S.C. 983 to be any funds made available for DoD, Department of Transportation, DHS, or National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy, the Central Intelligence Agency, or for any department or agency in which regular appropriations are made in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. None of these covered funds may be provided by contract or grant to an institution of higher education (including any subelement of such institution) that has a policy or practice (regardless of when implemented) that

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