

## V. Internal Processing of the Certification and Request Under the Program

(1) A provisional patent application number will be assigned to an application filed by a program participant in accordance with 37 CFR 1.53(a).

(2) A program submission that includes a legible specification in DOCX format, with or without claims, will be given a provisional application filing date under 37 CFR 1.53(c). The program participant will be notified of the filing date.

A submission that fails to include a legible specification in DOCX format will not be treated as a program submission, even if it is accompanied by form PTO/SB/452. The submission will be handled as a provisional application, and a notice will be sent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(g), including a requirement for payment of the basic filing fee ordinarily within two months of the date of the notice. See MPEP 601.01(b).

(3) If a program submission is otherwise complete but does not include a cover sheet as required for a provisional application by 37 CFR 1.51(c)(1), or any necessary application size fee as required by 37 CFR 1.51(c)(4), the applicant will be notified and given an extendable two-month time period from the date of the notice to submit the missing items in accordance with 37 CFR 1.53(g). However, the applicant may continue to defer payment of the basic filing fee until a nonprovisional application claiming benefit of the provisional application is filed. Even if the notice sets a due date for the basic filing fee that is earlier than 12 months after the date the provisional application was filed, the fee will be considered timely if paid not later than the date on which a nonprovisional application that is entitled to claim benefit of the provisional application is filed. A reply to an Office notice that purports to require payment of the basic filing fee earlier than 12 months after the date the provisional application was filed will be considered complete, as to the fee payment issue, if it refers to this **Federal Register** notice as the basis for deferring payment or includes a copy of this notice. Failure to draw the Office's attention to this **Federal Register** notice will result in the application being processed as if the fee were due in response to the Office notice, and substantial processing delays may occur.

(4) When all the requirements for a provisional application have been met, with the exception that the basic filing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(d) can be

deferred, the specification and form PTO/SB/452 will be placed in a text-searchable online collaboration database that is available to the public and maintained by the Office. The collaboration database will also include the first named inventor, any contact information provided on form PTO/SB/452, the provisional application filing date, and the date the information is posted in the database. The cover sheet, as required for a provisional application by 37 CFR 1.51(c)(1), will not be posted in the database. The Office will notify the program participant of the posting date of the information.

(5) If the basic filing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(d) has not been paid by 10 months after the provisional application filing date, the Office will notify the applicant that the fee must be paid not later than 12 months after the provisional application filing date, and in any case, the fee is required in order to claim 35 U.S.C. 119(e) benefit of the provisional application in a corresponding nonprovisional application.

The mere absence of the basic filing fee, without any other defects in the submission, will not trigger a notification regarding payment earlier than the 10-month notice. If, however, the Office inadvertently sends such a notice requiring payment of the basic filing fee prior to the date a corresponding nonprovisional application is filed, a participant may respond by drawing attention to this **Federal Register** notice. Deferring payment until filing of a corresponding nonprovisional application is permitted under the program, even if a notice setting an earlier payment date is inadvertently sent.

## VI. Actions Resulting in Termination From the Program

There is no provision for withdrawal from the program. Once the technical subject matter of a program submission is made available to the public in the searchable collaboration database on the USPTO's website, that public availability cannot be revoked. This is in keeping with the goal of providing a publicly available repository of information relevant to technologies that may help to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is no requirement that an applicant must file a later application that claims benefit or

priority of a provisional application filed under the program.

**Andrei Iancu,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2020-20443 Filed 9-16-20; 8:45 am]

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## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Limitations of Duty- and Quota-Free Imports of Apparel Articles Assembled in Beneficiary Sub-Saharan African Countries From Regional and Third-Country Fabric

**AGENCY:** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

**ACTION:** Publishing the new 12-month cap on duty- and quota-free benefits.

**DATES:** The new limitations become effective October 1, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rebecca Geiger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3117.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Authority:* Title I, Section 112(b)(3) of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA 2000), Public Law (Pub. L.) 106-200, as amended by Division B, Title XXI, section 3108 of the Trade Act of 2002, Public Law 107-210; Section 7(b)(2) of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004, Public Law 108-274; Division D, Title VI, section 6002 of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA 2006), Public Law 109-432, and section 1 of The African Growth and Opportunity Amendments (Pub. L. 112-163), August 10, 2012; Presidential Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000 (65 FR 59321); Presidential Proclamation 7626 of November 13, 2002 (67 FR 69459); and Title I, Section 103(b)(2) and (3) of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, Public Law 114-27, June 29, 2015.

Title I of TDA 2000 provides for duty- and quota-free treatment for certain textile and apparel articles imported from designated beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. Section 112(b)(3) of TDA 2000 provides duty- and quota-free treatment for apparel articles wholly assembled in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from fabric wholly formed in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from yarn originating in the United States or one or more

beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. This preferential treatment is also available for apparel articles assembled in one or more lesser-developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric used to make such articles, subject to quantitative limitation. Public Law 114–27 extended this special rule for lesser-developed countries through September 30, 2025.

The AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 provides that the quantitative limitation for the twelve-month period beginning October 1, 2020 will be an amount not to exceed 7 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available. *See* Section 112(b)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of TDA 2000, as amended by Section 7(b)(2)(B) of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004. Of this overall amount, apparel imported under the special rule for lesser-developed countries is limited to an amount not to exceed 3.5 percent of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period. *See* Section 112(b)(3)(B)(ii)(II) of TDA 2000, as amended by Section 6002(a)(3) of TRHCA 2006. The Annex to Presidential Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000 directed CITA to publish the aggregate quantity of imports allowed during each 12-month period in the **Federal Register**.

For the one-year period, beginning on October 1, 2020, and extending through September 30, 2021, the aggregate quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under these provisions is 1,856,390,368 square meters equivalent. Of this amount, 928,195,184 square meters equivalent is available to apparel articles imported under the special rule for lesser-developed countries. Apparel articles entered in excess of these quantities will be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs. These quantities are calculated using the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States, derived from the set of Harmonized System lines listed in the Annex to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), and the conversion factors for units of measure into square meter equivalents used by the United States in implementing the ATC.

**Lloyd Wood,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 2020–20405 Filed 9–16–20; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2020–SCC–0152]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Third Party Servicer Data Collection

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid, Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of a currently approved collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 16, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED–2020–SCC–0152. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [IGDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:IGDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W208D, Washington, DC 20202–8240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202–377–4018.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested

data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Third Party Servicer Data Collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 1845–0130.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Private Sector; Individuals or Households; State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 107.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 56.

**Abstract:** The Department of Education (the Department) is seeking a revision of the OMB approval of a Third Party Servicer Data Form. This form collects information from third party servicers. This form is used to validate the information reported to the Department by higher education institutions about the third-party servicers that administer one or more aspects of the administration of the Title IV, HEA programs on an institution's behalf. This form also collects additional information required for effective oversight of these entities. There has been no change to the supporting regulatory language. We have reevaluated the usage of the form and there is a resulting decrease in the number of respondents and burden hours.

Dated: September 14, 2020.

**Kate Mullan,**

*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2020–20525 Filed 9–16–20; 8:45 am]

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