DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
[DOT–OST–2020–0237]

Workshop on GPS Jamming and Spoofing in the Maritime Environment

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST–R), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that DOT, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST–R) and the Maritime Administration (MARAD), will host a workshop on Global Positioning System (GPS) jamming and spoofing in the maritime environment on December 3, 2020. The workshop will focus on:

- How positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) supports maritime applications;
- What happens when PNT is denied, disrupted, or manipulated in a maritime environment; and
- Options to reduce operational impact and increase PNT resiliency.

The workshop will be held virtually and is open to the general public by registration only. For those who would like to attend the workshop, please use the following link to register: https://volpe-events.webex.com/volpe-events/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8d794472bbf3089e77da9ac1c31efdc2.

You must include:
- Name
- Organization
- Telephone number
- Mailing and email addresses
- Country of citizenship

Several days before the workshop, an email containing the agenda, dial-in number, and WebEx information will be provided.

Date and Time: December 3, 2020, from 1:00–5:00 p.m. (EST).

Location: This workshop will be held virtually.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Overview

Accurate and reliable PNT capabilities are essential for the safety for all modes of transportation and will become increasingly important for automated vessels. The primary and most recognizable PNT service supporting critical infrastructure is GPS. However, because GPS relies on signals broadcast from the satellite constellation, its signals are low power at the receiver and are thus vulnerable to intentional and unintentional disruption, such as jamming and spoofing. GPS “jamming” involves the use of a device to block or interfere with GPS signals; “spoofing” is deceiving a GPS device through fake signals. Both phenomena undermine the reliability of GPS and may have adverse consequences for maritime safety and commerce.

Jamming has long been a threat to GPS due to the weak signal power from the GPS satellites. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military drills in the Baltic Sea last year, with 40,000 troops and all 29 Nations participating, experienced GPS jamming. Spoofing was considered an unrealistic threat for many years because it is complicated to perform. However, high-profile demonstrations at the University of Texas that spoofed a drone and a sophisticated yacht brought spoofing into the public eye in 2012–2013, a little more than a decade after DOT’s Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center) issued its report, “Vulnerability Assessment of the Transportation Infrastructure Relying on the Global Positioning System” (August 2001; available at: https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dt/8433).

A likely GPS spoofing attack occurred in the Black Sea in 2017, where over 20 ships erroneously reported their GPS positions as being inland at an airport. The number of separate vessels that reported the same false position and the characteristic jumping between the false and true position of the ships is strong evidence of a large-scale spoofing attack.

More recently, incidents of GPS spoofing have been occurring around the world, particularly in maritime environments. The U.S. Government provides advisories of GPS interference through the Maritime Security Communications with Industry (MSCI) portal, at https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/2020-016-various-gps-interference.

Much of global trade is conducted by waterways, where ports are often congested and visibility is variable. In a maritime environment, GPS not only provides positioning information, but also provides inputs to speed, heading, steering, radar and target information. Electronic Chart Display Information System (ECDIS), Under Keel Clearance (UKC), and the Automatic Identification System (AIS). Being able to detect when spoofing is occurring is vital, since over 50% of all casualties at sea occur due to navigation issues. When GPS jamming and spoofing is detected, the goal is for ships to immediately switch to other navigation tools. It is therefore critical to use complementary PNT technologies to ensure PNT resilience.

Consistent with these concerns, on February 12, 2020, President Trump issued Executive Order (E.O.) 13905, Strengthening National Resilience through Responsible Use of Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Services. The goal is to foster the responsible use of PNT services by critical infrastructure owners and operators (including the transportation sector) to strengthen national resilience. E.O. 13905 seeks to ensure that disruption or manipulation of PNT services does not undermine the reliability or efficiency of critical infrastructure by:

- Raising awareness of the extent to which critical infrastructure depends on PNT services;
- Ensuring that critical infrastructure can withstand disruption or manipulation of PNT services; and
- Engaging the public and private sectors to promote responsible use of PNT services.

In accordance with Section 4(g) of E.O. 13905, DOT is conducting a pilot program to inform the development of the relevant PNT profile and research and development (R&D) opportunities. The DOT pilot program, led by OST–R and MARAD, is focused on addressing GPS jamming and spoofing impacts to maritime vessels through stakeholder engagement and evaluating complementary PNT technologies that can be adopted to mitigate the impacts during these threat scenarios. The DOT pilot program will be conducted through stakeholder engagement and evaluation of complementary PNT technologies that can be adopted to
mitigate the impacts during these threat scenarios.

The purpose of the workshop, which is a key component of stakeholder engagement of the DOT pilot program, is to increase public awareness of real-world incidents of the GPS signal being jammed or spoofed in a maritime environment and to discuss potential options to detect this interference, as well as use of complementary PNT technologies to provide a resilient PNT capability in the maritime environment.

Issued this 20th day of November, 2020, in Washington, DC.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, U.S. Department of Transportation.

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BILLING CODE 4910–0X–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Internal Revenue Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The IRS is soliciting comments concerning the monthly tax return for wagers.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 25, 2021 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Kinna Brewington, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Lanita Van Dyke, at (202) 317–6009, at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or through the internet, at Lanita.VanDyke@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title: Monthly Tax Return for Wagers. OMB Number: 1545–0235. Regulation Project Number: Form 730.

Abstract: Form 730 is used to identify taxable wagers under Internal Revenue Code section 4401 and collect the tax monthly. The information is used to determine if persons accepting wagers are correctly reporting the amount of wagers and paying the required tax.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing form.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations and individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 51,082.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 8 hours, 11 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 418,362.

The following paragraph applies to all the collections of information covered by this notice.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the 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 of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: November 18, 2020.

Chakinna B. Clemons,
Supervisory Tax Analyst.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Internal Revenue Service, as part of its effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The IRS is soliciting comments concerning Treatment of Gain From the Disposition of Interest in Certain Natural Resource Recapture Property by S Corporations and Their Shareholders.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before January 25, 2021 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Paul D. Adams, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224. Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Sara Covington, (737) 800–6149, at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or through the internet, at Sara.L.Covington@irs.gov.


Abstract: This regulation prescribes rules under Code section 1254 relating to the treatment by S corporations and their shareholders of gain from the disposition of natural resource recapture property and from the sale or exchange of S corporation stock. Section 1.1254–4(c)(2) of the regulation provides that gain recognized on the sale or exchange of S corporation stock is not treated as ordinary income if the shareholder attaches a statement to his or her return containing information establishing that the gain is not attributable to section 1254 costs.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals.