

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting “Records Open for Public Comment” from the “Features” box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 27552 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 27552 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sara Young or Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The applicant requests a 5-year permit to carry out research and enhancement activities to recover the endangered Hawaiian monk seal along beaches and nearshore waters throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and main Hawaiian Islands) and Johnston Atoll.

Research will identify impediments to recovery, inform the design of conservation interventions, and evaluate those measures. Research activities include visual and photographic monitoring, capture, tagging, pelage marking, health screening, foraging studies, deworming, necropsies, tissue sampling, behavioral modification, vocalization studies, and vaccination. Enhancement activities are designed to improve survival, reproductive success, and overall species' status. Enhancement activities include deworming, capture, translocation, hazing and removal of aggressive adult male seals, disentangling, dehooking, medical treatment, behavioral modification, vaccination, and supplemental feeding of post-release rehabilitated seals. Unintentional mortalities during research and

enhancement activities are requested. Unintentional disturbance of spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) during research and enhancement activities is also requested. See the application for complete numbers of animals requested by species, age-class, and procedure. Pinniped parts may be collected, received, exported, and imported for analysis.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: November 5, 2024.

**Julia M. Harrison**,  
Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-25998 Filed 11-7-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2024-0052]

#### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Ninth Edition, Revision January 2024

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** To provide updates to patent examination policy and procedures in a single source, which will improve access to essential guidance for all stakeholders and help to ensure issuance of robust and reliable patents that promote and protect innovation, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) issued a revision of the Ninth Edition of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), published in November 2024 (January 2024 revision). The MPEP provides patent examiners and the public with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications and other proceedings before the USPTO. The MPEP contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material in

the nature of information and interpretation, and outlines the current procedures that examiners are required or authorized to follow in appropriate cases in the normal examination of patent applications and during other Office proceedings.

**ADDRESSES:** The USPTO prefers that any suggestions for improving the form and content of the MPEP be submitted via email to [mpepfeedback@uspto.gov](mailto:mpepfeedback@uspto.gov) or via the IdeaScale® tool accessed from [www.uspto.gov/MPEP](http://www.uspto.gov/MPEP). Written comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Editor, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeanne Clark, Editor of the MPEP, by email at [Jeanne.Clark@uspto.gov](mailto:Jeanne.Clark@uspto.gov), or telephone at 571-272-7714; Monique Cole, Senior Patent Examination Policy Advisor, by email at [Monique.Cole@uspto.gov](mailto:Monique.Cole@uspto.gov), or telephone at 571-272-1463; or Kathy Mosser, Senior Patent Examination Policy Advisor, by email at [Kathleen.Mosser@uspto.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Mosser@uspto.gov), or telephone at 571-272-4435.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USPTO issued a revision to the Ninth Edition of the MPEP (January 2024 revision), published in November 2024, which provides USPTO patent examiners, applicants, attorneys, agents, representatives of applicants, and other members of the public with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications and other proceedings before the USPTO. The MPEP contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material in the nature of information and interpretation, and outlines the current procedures that examiners are required or authorized to follow in the normal examination of patent applications and during other Office proceedings. Although the MPEP does not have the force of law or the force of the rules in 37 CFR, it “is well known to those registered to practice in the [US]PTO and reflects the presumptions under which the [US]PTO operates.” *Critikon, Inc. v. Becton Dickinson Vascular Access, Inc.*, 120 F.3d 1253, 1257, 43 USPQ2d 1666, 1669 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

In the November 2024 publication of the January 2024 revision to the MPEP, sections of chapters 200-700, 900-1600, 1800, and 2100-2900 have been updated. The updated sections have a revision indicator of [R-01.2024], meaning these sections have been updated to include changes based on published guidance documents (*e.g.*,

rulemaking, notices, guidelines, and memorandums) that were in effect on or before January 31, 2024. In addition, Chapter FPC (Form Paragraph Book), the Title Page, Foreword, Introduction, Subject Matter Index, Appendix II, Appendix L, and Appendix R have been updated. The changes in the November 2024 publication are discussed in the Change Summary for the Ninth Edition, Revision 01.2024. The Change Summary is available at [www.uspto.gov/MPEP](http://www.uspto.gov/MPEP). Citation to a revised section in this revision of the MPEP should be to “e9 r01.2024,” e.g., MPEP 2163 (e9 r01.2024).

The November 2024 publication of the January 2024 revision of the MPEP may be viewed or downloaded free of charge from the USPTO website at [www.uspto.gov/MPEP](http://www.uspto.gov/MPEP) and is available to search online at [mpep.uspto.gov](http://mpep.uspto.gov). Archived copies of each of the prior revisions and editions of the MPEP continue to be available for reference on the USPTO website at [www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/old/index.htm](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/old/index.htm).

**Katherine K. Vidal,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-25693 Filed 11-7-24; 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 product(s) to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities and deletes product(s) and service(s) previously furnished by such agencies.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before: December 8, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 355 E Street SW, Suite 325, Washington, DC 20024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information or to submit comments contact: Michael R. Jurkowski, Telephone: (703) 489-1322, or email [CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov](mailto:CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published pursuant to 41

U.S.C. 8503 (a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

### Additions

In accordance with 41 CFR 51-2.4(b), Government personnel within the contracting activity have identified this as a product requirement not applicable to other Federal entities and has requested the Committee consider granting a purchase or distribution preference if the product is added to the Procurement List. See 71 FR 69536 (Dec. 1, 2006). If the Committee grants this request, the product listed below will not be available through the U.S. AbilityOne Commission's Commercial Distribution Program. The Committee will consider this request along with relevant comments received from interested parties.

The following product(s) are proposed for addition to the Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

#### Product(s)

##### NSN(s)—Product Name(s):

8415-01-698-4357—Knee Pad, Advanced Integrated

*Authorized Source of Supply:* The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. (Seattle Lighthouse), Seattle, WA

*Contracting Activity:* DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, DLA TROOP SUPPORT

*Distribution:* C-List

### Deletions

The following product(s) and service(s) are proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

#### Product(s)

##### NSN(s)—Product Name(s):

8455-01-388-8485—Insignia, US Air Force, Master Sergeant, Embroidered

*Authorized Source of Supply:* Westmoreland County Association, Greensburg, PA  
*Contracting Activity:* DLA TROOP SUPPORT, PHILADELPHIA, PA

##### NSN(s)—Product Name(s):

8415-01-623-5052—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XS-XXS

8415-01-623-5162—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XS-XS

8415-01-623-5165—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XS-S

8415-01-623-5166—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XS-R

8415-01-623-5169—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XS-L

8415-01-623-5170—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XS-XL

8415-01-623-5172—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, S-XXS

8415-01-623-5174—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, S-XS

8415-01-623-5178—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, S-S

8415-01-623-5180—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, S-R

8415-01-623-5182—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, S-L

8415-01-623-5236—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, S-XL

8415-01-623-5237—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, M-XXS

8415-01-623-5525—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, M-XS

8415-01-623-5526—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, M-S

8415-01-623-5528—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, M-R

8415-01-623-5529—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, M-L

8415-01-623-5534—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, M-XL

8415-01-623-5537—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, M-XXL

8415-01-623-5541—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, L-XXS

8415-01-623-5542—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, L-XS

8415-01-623-5543—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, L-S

8415-01-623-5552—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, L-R

8415-01-623-5553—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, L-L

8415-01-623-5554—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, L-XL

8415-01-623-5557—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, L-XXL

8415-01-623-5740—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XL-XXS

8415-01-623-5742—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XL-XS

8415-01-623-5789—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XL-S

8415-01-623-5790—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XL-R

8415-01-623-5793—Coat, Army Combat Uniform, Permethylin, Unisex, OCP 2015, XL-L