

focus group interviews. These methods serve the narrowly defined need for direct and informal opinion on a specific topic and serve as a qualitative and quantitative research tool having two major purposes:

- Obtaining useful, valid, and reliable information for the development of variables and measures for formulating the basic objectives of social and behavioral research; and
- Successfully communicating and addressing behavioral changes with intended audiences to assess the potential effectiveness of FDA communications, behavioral interventions, and other materials.

While FDA will use these methods to test and refine its ideas and help develop communication and behavioral strategies research, the Agency will generally conduct further research before making important decisions (such as adopting new policies and allocating or redirecting significant resources to support these policies).

FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Office of the Commissioner, and any other Centers will use this mechanism to test communications and social and behavioral methods about regulated

drug products on a variety of subjects related to consumer, patient, or healthcare professional perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, and use of drug and biological products and related materials. These subjects include social and behavioral research, decision-making processes, and communication and behavioral change strategies.

Further, in addition to overseeing the safety of drug products when used according to approved drug labeling or as directed by a healthcare provider, CDER conducts studies on topics related to the safe and effective use of drug products, and emerging safety issues in areas such as: (1) nonmedical use of approved drug products; (2) use of unapproved and falsified (*i.e.*, counterfeit, fake) drug products; (3) use of botanical substances (*e.g.*, cannabis derived products); (4) controlled substance prescribing decisions; (5) bystander response to drug overdoses; and (6) potentially false or misleading information about drug products.

Reliable data on these and related topics are a critical first step to understanding whether further studies or action is needed to protect public health.

Because often data on these topics are not collected as part of routine healthcare delivery or via established

Federal surveys, FDA requires the development and validation of novel instruments (*i.e.*, interview and focus group guides, questionnaires) and approaches to gathering data on emerging safety issues the methods used to create and validate these instruments may include interviews, focus groups, small group discussions, pilot and test/re-test survey launches, and external validation against benchmark surveys. In conducting research in these areas, FDA will need to employ the following validation methodology: (1) research to assess knowledge, perceptions, and experiences related to topics in the above-mentioned areas with specific target populations; (2) techniques to evaluate sampling and recruitment methods; and (3) evaluations of the validity and reliability of survey questionnaires in target populations.

Annually, FDA projects about 25 social and behavioral studies using the variety of test methods listed in this document. FDA is revising this burden to account for the number of studies we have received in the last 3 years and to better reflect the scope of the information collection.

FDA estimates the burden of this collection of information as follows:

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN ¹

Activity	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total annual responses	Average burden per response	Total hours
Interviews and Surveys	126,770	1	126,770	0.25 (15 minutes)	31,693

¹ There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this collection of information.

Based on a review of the information collection since our last request for OMB approval, our burden estimate for this information collection reflects an overall increase of 17,300 responses with a corresponding increase of 4,325 hours. We attribute this adjustment to the need to validate information in specific areas.

In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d), FDA published a 30-day notice for public comment on the proposed collection of information in the **Federal Register** on December 19, 2024 (89 FR 103841). FDA is reopening the 30-day comment period in order to satisfy PRA requirements. No changes have been made to the information collection.

Grace R. Graham,

Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2026-N-0497]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Patent Term Restoration; Due Diligence Petitions; Filing, Format, and Content of Petitions

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the Agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Federal Agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each

proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information collection relating to our Patent Term Restoration regulations.

DATES: Either electronic or written comments on the collection of information must be submitted by April 20, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered. The <https://www.regulations.gov> electronic filing system will accept comments until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time at the end of April 20, 2026. Comments received by mail/hand delivery/courier (for written/paper submissions) will be considered timely if they are received on or before that date.

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- **Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):** Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2026-N-0497 for "Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Patent Term Restoration; Due Diligence Petitions; Filing, Format, and Content of Petitions." Received comments, those filed in a timely manner (see **ADDRESSES**), will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- **Confidential Submissions—**To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper

submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as "confidential." Any information marked as "confidential" will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the "Search" box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anne Taylor, Office of Operations, Food and Drug Administration, Three White Flint North, 10A-12M, 11601 Landsdown St., North Bethesda, MD 20852, 240-402-5683, PRASStaff@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal Agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes Agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal Agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information,

before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, FDA is publishing notice of the proposed collection of information set forth in this document.

With respect to the following collection of information, FDA invites comments on these topics: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FDA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FDA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

Patent Term Restoration; Due Diligence Petitions; Filing, Format, and Content of Petitions—21 CFR Part 60

OMB Control Number 0910-0233—Extension

This information collection supports Agency regulations. FDA's patent extension activities are conducted under the authority of section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 355(j)) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-670) (21 U.S.C. 301, *et seq.*). The regulations are codified in part 60 (21 CFR part 60), Patent Term Restoration. New human drug, animal drug, human biological, medical device, food additive, or color additive products regulated by FDA must undergo FDA safety, or safety and effectiveness review before marketing is permitted. If the product is covered by a patent, part of the patent's term may be consumed during this review, which diminishes the value of the patent.

In enacting section 505(j) of the FD&C Act and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1988, Congress sought to encourage development of new, safer, and more effective medical and food additive products. It did so by authorizing the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to extend the patent term by a portion of the time during which FDA's safety and effectiveness review prevented marketing of the product. The length of the patent term extension is generally limited to a maximum of 5 years and is calculated by USPTO based on a statutory formula. When a patent

holder submits an application for patent term extension to USPTO, USPTO requests information from FDA, including the length of the regulatory review period for the patented product. If USPTO concludes that the product is eligible for patent term extension, FDA publishes a notice that describes the length of the regulatory review period and the dates used to calculate that period. Interested parties may request, under § 60.24 (21 CFR 60.24), revision of the length of the regulatory review period, or may petition under § 60.30 (21 CFR 60.30) to reduce the regulatory review period by any time where marketing approval was not pursued with “due diligence.”

In 21 CFR 60.36(a) *due diligence* is defined as “that degree of attention, continuous directed effort, and timeliness as may reasonably be expected from, and are ordinarily exercised by, a person during a regulatory review period.” As provided in § 60.30(c), a due diligence petition “shall set forth sufficient facts, including dates, if possible, to merit an investigation by FDA of whether the applicant acted with due diligence.” Upon receipt of a due diligence petition, FDA reviews the petition and evaluates whether any change in the regulatory review period is necessary. If so, the corrected regulatory review period is published in the **Federal Register**. A

due diligence petitioner not satisfied with FDA’s decision regarding the petition may, under § 60.40 (21 CFR 60.40), request an informal hearing for reconsideration of the due diligence determination. Petitioners are likely to include persons or organizations having knowledge that FDA’s marketing permission for that product was not actively pursued throughout the regulatory review period. The information collection for which an extension of approval is being sought is the use of the statutorily created due diligence petition.

We estimate the burden of this collection of information as follows:

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN ¹

21 CFR part 60—patent term restoration	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total annual responses	Average burden per response	Total hours
Revision of regulatory review period determinations; § 60.24	4	1.25	5	100	500
Due diligence petitions; § 60.30	1	1	1	50	50
Due diligence hearings; § 60.40	1	1	1	10	10
Total					560

¹ There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this collection of information.

We base our estimates on our experience and the average number of requests for revision of regulatory review period determinations, due diligence petitions, and requests for hearing received in the past 3 years. We estimate that 4 respondents will submit an average of 1.25 requests for revision of the regulatory review period determinations annually, for a total of 5 requests received annually. We assume that it will take respondents 100 hours to prepare the factual and legal information necessary to submit a request for revision. Thus, we estimate a total reporting burden of 500 hours. We estimate that one or fewer due diligence petitions will be submitted annually and that will take a respondent 50 hours to prepare the petition, for a total of 50 hours. We estimate that one or fewer requests for hearing will be submitted annually and that it will take a respondent 10 hours to prepare the request for hearing, for a total of 10 hours.

Based on a review of the information collection since our last request for OMB approval, we have made no adjustments to our burden estimate.

Grace R. Graham,
Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation,
and International Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2025-N-2652]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for Office of Management and Budget Review; Comment Request; Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco To Protect Children and Adolescents

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a proposed collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Submit written comments (including recommendations) on the collection of information by March 20, 2026.

ADDRESSES: To ensure that comments on the information collection are received, OMB recommends that written comments be submitted to <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments” or

by using the search function. The OMB control number for this information collection is 0910-0312. Also include the FDA docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amber Barrett, Office of Operations, Food and Drug Administration, Three White Flint North, 10A-12M, 11601 Landsdown St., North Bethesda, MD 20852, 301-796-8867, PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with 44 U.S.C. 3507, FDA has submitted the following proposed collection of information to OMB for review and clearance.

Regulations Restricting the Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco To Protect Children and Adolescents—21 CFR Part 1140

OMB Control Number 0910-0312—Extension

This information collection supports FDA regulatory requirements contained in part 1140 (21 CFR part 1140) authorized under Chapter IX of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 9) and associated agency guidance. Regulations in part 1140 establish permissible forms of labeling and advertising for cigarettes or smokeless tobacco and include