

information about unpublished patent applications.

This information collection covers the Certificate Action Form (PTO–2042), which is used by the public to request a new digital certificate, revoke a current certificate, or recover a lost or corrupted certificate. Customers may also change the name listed on the certificate or associate the certificate with one or more Customer Numbers. A Customer Number allows an applicant to associate all correspondence and USPTO actions regarding multiple patent applications to a single address and name. The Certificate Action Form must include a notarized signature in order to verify the identity of the applicant. The Certificate Action Form has an accompanying subscriber agreement to ensure that customers understand their obligations regarding the use of the digital certificates and cryptographic software. When generating a new certificate, customers also register to receive a set of seven codes that will enable customers to recover a lost certificate online without having to contact USPTO support staff.

II. Method of Collection

The Certificate Action Form must be notarized and may be mailed or hand delivered to the USPTO.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651–0045.

IC Instruments and Forms: PTO–2042.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,825 responses per year.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 30 minutes (0.50 hours) to read the instructions and subscriber agreement, gather the necessary information, prepare the Certificate Action Form, and submit the completed request.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 1,912.50 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden: \$402,084. The USPTO expects that attorneys, paraprofessionals, and independent

inventors will complete the submissions for this collection. The professional hourly rate for attorneys is \$438, for paraprofessionals is \$145, and for independent inventors is \$47.71. The attorney rate is established by estimates in the 2017 *Report on the Economic Survey*, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. The paraprofessional rate is established by estimates in the 2016 *National Utilization and Compensation Survey*, published by the National Association of Legal Assistance (NALA). The independent inventor rate is based the mean hourly wage for engineers according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics (17–2199). The USPTO estimates that the combined average hourly rate of these estimates for all respondents is approximately \$210.24. Using this hourly rate, the USPTO estimates that the total respondent cost burden for this collection is \$402,804 per year.

IC No.	Item	Annual response time (hours)	Annual response	Annual burden hours	Rate	Annual cost burden
		(a)	(b)	(c) = (a) × (b)	(d)	(e) = (c) × (d)
1	Certificate Action Form (including Subscriber Agreement).	0.50 (30 minutes) ...	3,825	1,912.50	\$210.24	\$402,084.00
Totals	3,825	1,915.50	402,084.00

Estimated Total Annual Non-hour Respondent Cost Burden: \$24,824.25. There are no capital start-up costs, maintenance costs, or fees associated with this information collection. However, this collection does have annual (non-hour) cost burden associated with the Certificate Action Form.

This collection has costs due to the notarization requirement for authenticating the signatures on the Certificate Action Form. The USPTO estimates that the average fee for having a signature notarizing is \$6 and 3,825 responses for these forms will be submitted annually, for a total cost of \$22,950 per year. The notary fee was determined based on estimates for notary fees by states as published by the National Notary Association.

This collection also has postage costs for submitting the Certificate Action Form to the USPTO by mail. The form cannot be faxed or submitted electronically because it requires an original notarized signature. The USPTO estimates that the first class

postage cost for these forms will be \$0.49 and that it will receive 3,825 mailed responses annually for a total postage cost of approximately \$1,874.25 per year.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the proposed 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 (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on

respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Marcie Lovett,

*Records and Information Governance
Division Director, OCTO United States Patent
and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2018–01612 Filed 1–26–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Financial Transactions

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

Title: Financial Transactions.

OMB Control Number: 0651-0043.

Form Number(s):

• PTO-2038

Type of Request: Regular.

Number of Respondents: 4,885,505 responses per year.

Average Hours per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 1 to 8 minutes (0.03 to 0.13 hours) to prepare the appropriate form or documents and submit to the USPTO.

Burden Hours: 242,402.84 hours annually.

Cost Burden: \$111,419.97.

Needs and Uses: Under 35 U.S.C. 41 and 15 U.S.C. 1113, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) charges fees for processing and other services related to patents, trademarks, and information products. Customers may submit payments to the USPTO by several methods, including credit card, deposit account, electronic funds transfer (EFT), and paper check transactions. The provisions of 35 U.S.C. 41 and 15 U.S.C. 1113 are implemented in 37 CFR 1.16-1.28, 2.6-2.7, and 2.206-2.209. This information collection includes associated payment and account forms for the aforementioned financial transactions and methods.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits; not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Nicholas A. Fraser, email: Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov.

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

• *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0043 copy request" in the subject line of the message.

• *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division Director, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before February 28, 2018 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov, or

by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

Marcie Lovett,

Records and Information Governance Division Director, OCTO, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-01611 Filed 1-26-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Recording Assignments

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 30, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

• *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-0027 Recording Assignments" in the subject line of the message.

• *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

• *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Joyce R. Johnson, Manager, Assignment Division, Mail Stop 1450, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 703-756-1265; or by email to Joyce.Johnson@uspto.gov with "Paperwork" in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under "Information Collection Review."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 261 and 262 for patents and 15 U.S.C. 1057 and 1060 for trademarks. These statutes authorize the United States Patent and Trademark

Office (USPTO) to record patent and trademark assignment documents, including transfers of properties (*i.e.*, patents and trademarks), liens, licenses, assignments of interest, security interests, mergers, and explanations of transactions or other documents that record the transfer of ownership of a particular patent or trademark property from one party to another. Assignments are recorded for applications, patents, and trademark registrations.

The USPTO administers these statutes through 37 CFR 2.146, 2.171, and 37 CFR part 3. These rules permit the public, corporations, other federal agencies, and Government-owned or Government-controlled corporations to submit patent and trademark assignment documents and other documents related to title transfers to the USPTO to be recorded. In accordance with 37 CFR 3.54, the recording of an assignment document by the USPTO is an administrative action and not a determination of the validity of the document or of the effect that the document has on the title to an application, patent, or trademark.

Once the assignment documents are recorded, they are available for public inspection. The only exceptions are those documents that are sealed under secrecy orders according to 37 CFR 3.58 or related to unpublished patent applications maintained in confidence under 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. The public uses these records to conduct ownership and chain-of-title searches. The public may view these records either at the USPTO Public Search Facility or at the National Archives and Records Administration, depending on the date they were recorded. The public may also search patent and trademark assignment information online through the USPTO website.

In order to record an assignment document, the respondent must submit an appropriate cover sheet along with copies of the assignment document to be recorded. The USPTO provides two paper forms for this purpose, the Patent Recordation Form Cover Sheet (PTO-1595) and the Trademark Recordation Form Cover Sheet (PTO-1594), which capture all of the necessary data for accurately recording various assignment documents. These forms may be downloaded in PDF format from the USPTO website (<https://www.uspto.gov/forms/pto1595.pdf> and <https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/pto1594.pdf>, respectively).

Customers may also submit assignments online by using the Electronic Patent Assignment System (EPAS) and the Electronic Trademark