Technology Award. This Award is the highest honor bestowed by the President to America's leading innovators who have made considerable contributions to enhancing America's competitiveness and standard of living. The information provided through the nomination process is used by the Evaluation Committee to determine eligibility and merit according to specified criteria.

*Affected Public:* Individuals, Business or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, and the Federal Government.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits, voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Maya Bernstein, (202) 395–4816.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482–3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Maya Bernstein, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: June 9, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98–15760 Filed 6–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–18–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* Bureau of Export Administration (BXA).

*Title:* Procedure for Voluntary Self-Disclosure of Violations.

*Agency Form Number:* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0694–0058.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

*Burden:* 800 hours.

*Average Time Per Response:* 10 hours per response.

*Number of Respondents:* 80 respondents.

*Needs and Uses:* BXA codified its voluntary self-disclosure policy to increase public awareness of this policy and to provide the public with a good idea of BXA's likely response to a given disclosure. Voluntary self-disclosures allow BXA to conduct investigations of the disclosed incidents faster than would be the case if BXA had to detect the violations without such disclosures.

*Affected Public:* Individuals, businesses or other for-profit institutions.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Victoria Baecher-Wassmer.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482–3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before July 15, 1998 to Victoria Baecher-Wassmer, OMB Desk Officer, (202) 395–5871, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: June 9, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98–15806 Filed 6–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–DT–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* Bureau of Export Administration (BXA).

*Title:* Delivery Verification Certificate.

*Agency Form Number:* BXA–647P.

*OMB Approval Number:* 0694–0016.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

*Burden:* 56 hours.

*Average Hours Per Response:* Approximately 30 minutes for the form and 1 minute for recordkeeping.

*Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Needs and Uses:* The Delivery Verification Certificate is the result of an agreement between the United States and a number of other countries to increase the effectiveness of their respective controls over international trade in strategic commodities. The form is issued and certified by the government of the country of ultimate destination, at the request of the U.S. government (BXA). It is a service performed to honor an agreement between the U.S. Government and the other countries participating in this Delivery Verification procedure.

*Affected Public:* Individuals, businesses or other for-profit institutions.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Victoria Baecher-Wassmer (202) 395–5871.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482–3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Victoria Baecher-Wassmer, OMB Desk Officer, (202) 395–5871, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: June 9, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98–15807 Filed 6–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–33–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

### Fastener Quality Act Public Workshop; Postponement

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, United States Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NIST is postponing the open meeting to provide details and interpretations on the regulations related to the Quality Assurance Systems (QAS) of fastener manufacturing contained in the April 14, 1998, final regulation under the Fastener Quality Act, previously scheduled for June 16, 1998. The meeting will be rescheduled at a later date and will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** The meeting was to be held on June 16, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Subhas G. Malghan, FQA Program Manager, Building 820, Room 306, NIST, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; telephone (301) 975–5120, fax (301) 975–5414, E-mail: malghan@nist.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 1, 1998, NIST announced in the **Federal Register**, (63 FR 29702), that it would be holding a public meeting on June 16, 1998, to provide details and interpretations on the regulations related to the Quality Assurance System (QAS) of fastener manufacturing contained in the April 14, 1998, final regulation under the Fastener Quality Act. NIST is postponing that meeting and will issue a future notice announcing a new date for the meeting.

Dated: June 10, 1998.

**Robert E. Hebner,**

*Acting Deputy Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology.*

[FR Doc. 98–15935 Filed 6–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–13–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

**[Docket No. 980605148–8148–01]**

### Request for Comments on Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1 ''Written Description'' Requirement

**AGENCY:** Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) requests comments from any interested member of the public on the following interim guidelines. These guidelines will be used by PTO personnel in their review of biotechnological patent applications for compliance with the ''written description'' requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1. Although the guidelines are directed primarily to written descriptions of biotechnological inventions, they reflect the current understanding of the PTO and apply across the board to all relevant technologies.

**DATES:** Written comments on the interim guidelines will be accepted by the PTO until September 14, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to Box 8, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, marked to the attention of Scott A. Chambers, Associate Solicitor or to Box Comments, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 marked to the attention of Linda S. Therkorn. Alternatively, comments may be submitted to Scott Chambers via facsimile at (703) 305–9373 or by electronic mail addressed to ''scott.chambers@uspto.gov'' or to Linda Therkorn via facsimile at (703) 305–8825 or by electronic mail addressed at ''linda.therkorn@uspto.gov.''

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Chambers by telephone at (703) 305–9035, by facsimile at (703) 305–9373, by mail to his attention addressed to Box 8, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or by electronic mail at ''scott.chambers@uspto.gov'; or Linda Therkorn by telephone at (703) 305–8800, by facsimile at (703) 305–8825, by mail addressed to Box Comments, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or by electronic mail at ''linda.therkorn@uspto.gov.''

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The PTO requests comments from any interested member of the public on the following interim guidelines. These guidelines will be used by PTO personnel in their review of biotechnological patent applications for compliance with the ''written description'' requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1. Although the guidelines are directed primarily to written descriptions of biotechnological inventions, they reflect the current understanding of the PTO and apply across the board to all relevant technologies. Because these guidelines govern internal practices, they are exempt from notice and comment rulemaking under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A).

Written comments should include the following information: (1) name and affiliation of the individual responding; and (2) an indication of whether the comments offered represent views of the respondent's organization or are they respondent's personal views. The PTO is particularly interested in comments relating to: (1) the accuracy of the methodology; (2) relevant factors to consider in determining whether the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1 is satisfied; (3) whether the scope of these guidelines should be limited to certain technologies, such as biotechnology, or even a particular area of biotechnology such as nucleic acids, or encompass all technologies generally; (4) whether the scope of these guidelines should be expanded to include processes and/or product-by-process claims; and (5) the impact these guidelines may have on currently pending applications as well as future applications.

Parties presenting written comments are requested, where possible, to provide their comments in machine-readable format in addition to a paper copy. Such submissions may be provided by electronic mail messages sent over the Internet, or on a 3.5″ floppy disk formatted for use in either a Macintosh, Windows, Windows for Workgroups, Windows 95, Windows NT, or MS-DOS based computer.

Written comments will be available for public inspection on or about September 14, 1998, in Suite 918, Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. In addition, comments provided in machine-readable format will be available through anonymous file transfer protocol (ftp) via the Internet (address: comments.uspto.gov) and through the World Wide Web (address: www.uspto.gov).

### Interim Guidelines for the Examination of Patent Applications Under The 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1 ''Written Description'' Requirement

These ''Written Description Guidelines'' are intended to assist Office personnel in the examination of patent applications for compliance with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 1, in view of *University of California* v. *Eli Lilly* [1] and the earlier cases *Fiers* v. *Revel* [2] and *Amgen, Inc.* v. *Chugai Pharmaceutical Co.* [3] These Interim Guidelines are directed primarily to determining whether there is written description support for product claims and are not intended to specifically address the description necessary to support process or product-by-process claims. Similarly, these Guidelines are not intended to directly address the question of new matter, which is currently addressed in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §§ 2163.06–.07. The Final Guidelines may address these additional issues if public comment suggests they should be addressed. These guidelines are based on the Office's current understanding of the law and are believed to be fully consistent with binding precedent of the Supreme Court, the Federal Circuit, and the Federal Circuit's predecessor courts.

These guidelines do not constitute substantive rulemaking and hence do not have the force and effect of law. They are designed to assist Office personnel in analyzing claimed subject matter for compliance with substantive law. Rejections will be based upon the substantive law, and it is these rejections which are appealable. Consequently, any failure by Office personnel to follow the guidelines is neither appealable nor petitionable.