

The permit holder now requests authorization to: (1) Import up to 70 muscle tissue samples and 390 blood samples taken from grey seals on Sable Island, Canada during 2003; (2) import 400 blood plasma samples per year taken from captive hooded seals in Norway; (3) add Dr. Shawn N. Kramer as a co-investigator; and (4) extend the period of the permit through March 2005. The objectives of the studies are: to investigate the relationship between body mass at weaning, rate of mass loss and development of oxygen storage capacity during the post-weaning fast; the time of departure from the breeding grounds; and to conduct a validation study using captive hooded seals to determine details of foraging activity that will allow scientists to estimate body composition and to determine dose-response and kinetics of excretion of biomarkers.

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 this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 19, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-7253 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has submitted 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 (USPTO).

Title: Madrid Protocol.

Form Number(s): PTO-2131, PTO, 2132 and PTO-2133.

Agency Approval Number: 0651-XXXX.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 4,552 hours annually.

Number of Respondents: 22,630 responses per year.

Avg. Hours Per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 15 minutes (0.25 hours) to complete the international trademark application; 3 minutes (0.05 hours) for the subsequent designations; 10 minutes (0.17 hours) for the response to notice of irregularities by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in connection with international applications; 2 minutes (0.03 hours) for the request that the USPTO replace a U.S. registration with a subsequently registered extension of protection to the United States; 5 minutes (0.08 hours) for the request to record an assignment of restriction of a holder's right to dispose of an international registration, and a request that the USPTO transform a cancelled extension of protection into an application for registration under section 1 or 44 of the Act, depending upon the nature of the particular information being provided. This includes time to gather the necessary information, create the documents, and submit the completed request. Regarding the affidavit of continued use or excusable nonuse under section 71 of the Act, the public won't be able/required to submit this until five years from the date the statute takes effect, at the earliest; hence, no projections are being calculated at this time.

Needs and Uses: The information in this collection is a matter of public record, and is used by the public for a variety of business purposes related to establishing and enforcing international trademark rights.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; farms; the federal Government; and state, local or tribal Government.

Frequency: On occasion.

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

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by contacting Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division, USPTO, Washington, DC 20231, by phone at 703-308-7400, or by e-mail to susan.brown@uspto.gov.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before April 25, 2003 to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: March 18, 2003.

Susan K. Brown,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of Data Architecture and Services, Data Administration Division.

[FR Doc. 03-7248 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Consolidation and Amendment of Export Visa Requirements to Include the Electronic Visa Information System for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Pakistan

March 20, 2003.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA)

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection consolidating and amending visa requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 11, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shikha Bhatnagar, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

On March 13, 2003, the Governments of the United States and Pakistan signed an agreement amending the existing Visa Arrangement for cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in Categories 200-239, 300-361, 363-369 (excluding 369-O), 600-670, and 800-899, including part categories and merged categories, but not category 369-O, produced or manufactured in Pakistan. The amended Arrangement consolidates existing provisions and establishes new provisions for the Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS). The Governments of the United States and Pakistan will implement a 6-month test phase in which, in addition to the ELVIS requirements, shipments must continue to be accompanied by a paper visa. This notice amends, but does not cancel, the notice and letter to the Commissioner of Customs, as amended, published in the Federal Register on June 6, 1983 (see 48 FR 25257).

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS

numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see Federal Register notice 68 FR 1599, published on January 13, 2003).

Goods integrated into GATT 1994 in Stages II and III by the United States will not require a visa or ELVIS transmission (see Federal Register notices 63 FR 53881, published on October 7, 1998 and 66 FR 63225, published on December 5, 2001).

Interested persons are advised to take all necessary steps to ensure that textile products entered into the United States for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, will meet the visa requirements set forth in the letter published below to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 20, 2003.

Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection,
Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on May 27, 1983, as amended, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. Under the terms of Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); and pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing and the Visa, ELVIS and Exempt Certification Arrangement, signed on March 13, 2003, between the Governments of the United States and Pakistan; and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, you are directed to prohibit entry into the customs territory of the United States (i.e. the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in Categories 200-239, 300-361, 363-369 (excluding 369-O), 600-670, and 800-899, including part categories and merged categories, but not category 369-O, produced or manufactured in Pakistan and exported on or after April 11, 2003 for which the Government of Pakistan has not issued an appropriate export visa and Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) transmission fully described below. Should additional categories, part-categories or merged categories become subject to import quotas, the entire category(s), part-category(s) or merged category(s) shall be included in the coverage of this Arrangement. The original visa in blue ink shall be stamped on the front of the original commercial invoice.

A visa must accompany each shipment of the aforementioned textile products.

Visa Requirements

Each visa stamp will include the following information:

1. The visa number. The visa number shall be in the standard nine digit letter format beginning with one numeric digit for the last digit of the year of export, followed by the two character alpha code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (The code for Pakistan is PK), and a six digit numerical serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., 3PK123456.

2. The date of issuance. The date of issuance shall be the day, month, and year on which the visa was issued.

3. The original signature of the issuing official authorized by the Government of Pakistan.

4. The correct category(s), merged category(s), part category(s), quantity(s), and units of quantity in the shipment in the unit(s) of quantity provided for in the U.S. Department of Commerce Correlation and in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), e.g., "Cat. 340-510 DZ".

Quantities must be stated in whole numbers. Decimals or fractions will not be accepted. Merged category quota merchandise may be accompanied by either the appropriate merged category visa or the correct category visa corresponding to the actual shipment. (For example, quota Category 347/348 may be visaed as "Cat. 347/348" or if the shipment consists solely of Category 347 merchandise, the shipment may be visaed as "Cat. 347," but not as "Cat. 348").

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection shall not permit entry if the shipment does not have a visa, or if the visa number, date of issuance, signature, category, quantity are missing, incorrect, illegible, or have been crossed out or altered in any way. If the quantity indicated on the visa is less than that of the shipment, entry shall not be permitted. If the quantity indicated on the visa is more than that of the shipment, entry shall be permitted and only the amount entered shall be charged to any applicable quota.

Quantities shall be those determined by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

If the visa is not acceptable then a new visa must be obtained from the Pakistan Government or a visa waiver issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce at the request of the Pakistan Government and presented to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection before any portion of the shipment will be released. The waiver, if used, only waives the requirement to present a visa with the shipment. It does not waive the quota requirement. Visa waivers will only be issued for classification purposes or for one-time special purpose shipments that are not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise.

If the visaed invoice is deficient, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection will not return the original document after entry, but will provide a certified copy of that visaed invoice for use in obtaining a new correct original visaed invoice, or a visa waiver.

Only the actual quantity in the shipment and the correct category will be charged to the restraint level.

ELVIS Requirements:

A. Each ELVIS transmission shall include the following information:

i. The visa number: The visa number shall be in the standard nine digit letter format beginning with one numeric digit for the last digit of the year of export, followed by the two character alpha code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (The code for Pakistan is PK), and a six digit numerical serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., 3PK123456.

ii. The date of issuance: The date of issuance shall be the day, month and year on which the visa was issued.

iii. The correct category(s), merged category(s), part category(s), quantity(s), and unit(s) of quantity of the shipment in the unit(s) of quantity provided for in the U.S. Department of Commerce Correlation and in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. Quantities must be stated in whole numbers. Decimals or fractions will not be accepted.

iv. The quantity of the shipment in the correct units of quantity

v. The manufacturer ID number (MID)

B. Entry of a shipment shall not be permitted:

I. if an ELVIS transmission has not been received for the shipment from the Government of Pakistan;

II. if the ELVIS transmission for that shipment is missing any of the following information:

i) visa number

ii) category, part category, or merged category

iii) quantity

iv) unit of measure

v) date of issuance

vi) manufacturer ID number

III. if the ELVIS transmission for the shipment does not match the information supplied by the importer, or the Customs broker acting as an agent on behalf of the importer, with regard to any of the following:

i) visa number

ii) category, part category, or merged category

iii) unit of measure

IV. If the quantity being entered is greater than the quantity transmitted.

V. If the visa number has previously been used, except in the case of a split shipment, or cancelled, except when entry has already been made using the visa number.

C. A new, correct ELVIS transmission from the Government of Pakistan is required before a shipment that has been denied entry for one of the circumstances mentioned above will be released.

D. Visa waivers will only be accepted if the shipment qualifies for a one-time special purpose shipment that is not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise. A visa waiver may be issued by the Department of Commerce at the request of the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, DC. A visa waiver only waives the requirements to present an ELVIS transmission at the time of entry, and doesn't waive any quota requirements.

E. In the event of a systems failure, shipments will not be released for twenty-four hours or 1 calendar day. If system failure exceeds twenty-four hours or 1 calendar day, for the remaining period of the system failure the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection will release shipments on the basis of the visa data provided by the Government of Pakistan. Pakistan will retransmit all data that was affected by the systems failure when the system is functioning normally.

Shipments not requiring visas, ELVIS transmission or exempt certifications:

Merchandise imported for the personal use of the importer and not for resale, regardless of value, and properly marked commercial sample shipments valued at U.S. \$800 or less do not require a visa, an ELVIS transmission or exempt certification for entry and shall not be charged to Agreement levels.

Other Provisions:

An invoice may cover visaed merchandise or exempt certification merchandise but not both.

Goods integrated into GATT 1994 in Stages II and III by the United States will not require a visa or ELVIS transmission (see Federal Register notices 63 FR 53881, published on October 7, 1998 and 66 FR 63225, published on December 5, 2001, respectively). A visa and ELVIS transmission will continue to be required for non-integrated products.

The visa stamp remains unchanged. The Exempt Certification requirements remain unchanged.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action fall with the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
James C. Leonard III,
*Chairman, Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*
[FR Doc. 03-7189 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) announces a proposed information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. 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 of the

proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received on or before May 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the continuing information collection should be sent to the Senior Investigator, The Millennium Cohort Study, Naval Health Research Center, Emerging Illness Division, PO Box 85122, San Diego CA 92186-5122.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this information collection, please write to the above address or contact Margaret A. K. Ryan, MD, MPH, by calling (619) 553-8087 or email at Ryan@NHRC.NAVY.MIL.

Title, Associated Form and OMB Number: Prospective Studies of U.S. Military Forces: The Millennium Cohort Study.

Needs and Uses: The Millennium Cohort Study, a prospective study of U.S. military forces, responds to this need and to recent recommendations, from Congress and the Institute of Medicine to perform a study that systematically collects population-based demographic and health data to evaluate the health of service personnel throughout their military careers and after leaving military service.

Affected Public: Individuals.
Annual Burden Hours: 14,445.
Number of Respondents: 19,200.
Responses Per Respondent: 1.
Average Burden Per Response: 45 minutes.

Frequency: Every Three Years.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The purpose of the study is designed to systematically collect population-based demographic and health data to evaluate the health of service personnel throughout their military careers and after leaving military service. The principal objective of the study is to evaluate the impact of military deployments on various measures of health over time, including medically unexplained symptoms and chronic diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. The Millennium Cohort Study will serve as a foundation upon which other routinely captured medical and deployment data may be added to answer future questions regarding the health risks of military deployment,

military occupations, and general military service.

Eligible respondents of this survey are individuals who were members of the Armed Forces during the initial study enrollment period conducted in 2000, completed the baseline survey and volunteered to participate in the prospective study and follow-up surveys.

Dated: March 19, 2003.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 03-7090 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 25, 2003.

Title, Form Number, and OMB

Number: DoD Education Loan Repayment Program; DD Form 2475; OMB Number 0704-0152.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 31,000.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 31,000.

Average Burden per Response: 10 minutes (average).

Annual Burden Hours: 5,167 hours.

Needs and Uses: Military services are authorized to repay Federal student loans for individuals who meet certain criteria who enlist for active military service or enter the Selected Reserves for a specified obligation period. The DD Form 2475 collects the necessary verification data from the lending institutions.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: Annually.

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

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Jacqueline Zeiher.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Ms. Zeiher at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.