DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
[Docket No.: PTO–C–2017–0006]
Notice of Public Meeting on Developments in Trade Secret Protection


ACTION: Notice of symposium.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will be holding a public symposium on issues relevant to the protection of trade secrets. Since our last symposium on these issues in January 2015, the area of trade secret protection has continued to develop, most notably with the May 11, 2016, enactment of the Defend Trade Secrets Act (DTSA). Given this legislation and the continuing domestic and international attention to trade secrets, the USPTO will be holding another public symposium to address recent developments.

DATES: The symposium will be held on May 8, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: The symposium will be held at the auditorium of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Madison Building, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. All major entrances to the building are accessible to people with disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the symposium, please contact Michael Smith, Jenny Blank, or Hollis Robinson at the Office of Policy and International Affairs, by telephone at (571) 272–9300, by email at tradesecrets@uspto.gov, or by postal mail addressed to: Mail Stop OPIA, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Madison Building, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, ATTN: Michael Smith, Jenny Blank, or Hollis Robinson. Please direct all media inquiries to the Office of the Chief Communications Officer, USPTO, at (571) 272–8400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Trade Secret Symposium

Under U.S. law, trade secrets comprise commercially valuable information not generally known or readily ascertainable to the public, that are subject to reasonable measures to maintain confidentiality. In May 2016, the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (DTSA) established a federal private civil cause of action for the misappropriation of a trade secret, with the aim to provide businesses with a uniform, reliable and predictable way to protect their valuable trade secrets anywhere in the country. Given this legislation and the continuing domestic and international attention to trade secrets, the USPTO will hold a public symposium on recent developments in the protection of trade secrets. Topics to be discussed include: (1) Measuring the Value of Secrecy; (2) Use of the DTSA in Practice; (3) Differences in Trade Secret Protection in Foreign Jurisdictions; and (4) Considerations of Business Owners in International Cases. Experts from academia, private legal practice, international organizations, and industry will serve as panelists.

Instructions and Information on the Public Symposium

The symposium will be held on May 8, 2017, at the auditorium of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Madison Building, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. The symposium will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. EDT. The agenda will be available a week in advance on the USPTO Web site, https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/ip-policy/enforcement/trade-secret-symposium. Pre-registration is available at http://www.cvent.com/d/45g976. Attendees may also register at the door one-half hour prior to the beginning of the symposium.

The symposium will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodation, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids, should communicate their needs to Hollis Robinson at the Office of Policy and International Affairs, by telephone at (571) 272–9300, by email at hollis.robinson@uspto.gov, or by postal mail addressed to: Mail Stop OPIA, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450, ATTN: Hollis Robinson, at least seven (7) business days prior to the symposium.


Michelle K. Lee,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
Transactions, Interest and Related Cash or Forward Transactions, 80 FR 80247 (Dec. 24, 2015). Specifically, the amendment to Regulation 1.35(a) excludes members of designated contract markets (“DCMs”) and members of swap execution facilities (“SEFs”) that are not registered or required to register with the Commission (“Unregistered Members”) from the requirement to keep written communications that lead to the execution of a commodity interest transaction and related cash or forward transactions; (2) excludes Unregistered Members from the requirement to maintain records in a particular form and manner; (3) excludes Unregistered Members from the requirement to retain oral communications that lead to the execution of a transaction; and (5) clarifies the form and manner requirements that apply to required records.

In Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection Revision, Comment Request: Final Rule for Records of Commodity Interest and Related Cash or Forward Transactions, 80 FR 80327 (Dec. 24, 2015), the Commission addressed the PRA implications of this amendment of Regulation 1.35. First, the Commission estimated that changing Regulation 1.35(a) to exclude Unregistered Members from the requirement to keep written communications that lead to transaction execution will decrease the information collection burden under the rule by approximately one-half hour per week per entity. Second, the Commission estimated that excluding Unregistered Members from the requirement to maintain records in a particular form and manner will decrease the information collection burden by approximately one-half hour per month per entity. Third, the Commission estimated that excluding Unregistered Members from the requirement to retain text messages will decrease the information collection burden by approximately one-half hour per month per entity. In connection with these estimates, the Commission estimated that there are approximately 3,200 Unregistered Members that will have their recordkeeping obligations reduced as a result of these three changes to Regulation 1.35(a). Next, the Commission estimated that excluding CTAs that are members of a DCM or of a SEF from the requirement to record oral communications that lead to transaction execution will decrease the information collection burden by approximately one-half hour per week per entity. In connection with this estimate, the Commission estimated that there are approximately 1,775 CTAs that will have their recordkeeping obligations reduced as a result of this change to Regulation 1.35(a). Finally, the Commission noted that because the revised form and manner requirements are a clarification of the prior requirements, the revised requirements do not increase or decrease the information collection burden.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request—Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses and Mattress Pads and Standard for the Flammability (Open Flame) of Mattress Sets

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission or CPSC) announces that the Commission has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for extension of approval of a collection of information associated with the collection of information set forth in the Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses and Mattress Pads, and the Standard for the Flammability (Open Flame) of Mattress Sets, approved previously under OMB Control No. 3041–0014. In the Federal Register of January 25, 2017 (82 FR 8409), the CPSC published a notice to announce the agency’s intention to seek extension of approval of the collection of information. The Commission received no comments. Therefore, by publication of this notice, the Commission announces that CPSC has submitted to the OMB a request for extension of approval of that collection of information, without change.

Estimated number of respondents: 6,000.
Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 321,449 hours.¹

¹In the Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection Revision, Comment Request: Final Rule for Records of Commodity Interest and Related Cash or Forward Transactions, the Commission mistakenly estimated the total annual burden on respondents to be 319,707. This estimate appears to have incorporated a mathematical error. The correct estimate of the total annual burden on respondents is, and should have been, 321,449.