DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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

Agency: International Trade Administration (ITA). Title: Interim Procedures for Considering Requests from the Public under the Textile and Apparel Safeguard Provision of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

OMB Control Number: None.

Type of Request: Emergency submission (new information collection).

Burden Hours: 56.

Number of Respondents: 14.

Average Hours per Response: 4 hours for a Textile and Apparel Safeguard Request; and 4 hours for a Comment.

Needs and Uses: Title III, Subtitle C, Section 331 through Section 338 of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the “Act”) implements the textile and apparel safeguard provisions, provided for in Article 4.1 of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (the “Agreement”), which entered into force on March 15, 2012. This safeguard mechanism applies when, as a result of the reduction or elimination of a customs duty under the Agreement, a Korean textile or apparel article is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities, in absolute terms or relative to the domestic market for that article, and under such conditions as to cause serious damage or actual threat thereof to a U.S. industry producing a like or directly competitive article. In these circumstances, Article 4.1.1(b) permits the United States to (a) suspend any further reduction in the rate of duty provided for under Annex 2–B of the Agreement in the duty imposed on the article; or (b) increase the rate of duty on the imported article from Korea to a level that does not exceed the lesser of the prevailing U.S. normal trade relations (“NTR”)/most-favored-nation (“MFN”) duty rate for the article or the U.S. NTR/MFN duty rate in effect on the day before the Agreement enters into force.

The Statement of Administrative Action accompanying the Act provides that the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) will issue procedures for requesting such safeguard measures, for making its determinations under Section 332(a) of the Act, and for providing relief under Section 332(b) of the Act. CITA was unable to publish these procedures earlier and is requesting an emergency review of the information collection and procedures from the Office of Management and Budget.

CITA must collect information in order to determine whether a domestic textile or apparel industry is being adversely impacted by imports of these products from Korean, thereby allowing CITA to take corrective action to protect the viability of the domestic textile or apparel industry, subject to section 332(b) of the Act.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion.


Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482–0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 or via email at jjessup@doc.gov.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent by April 16, 2012 to Wendy Liberante, OMB Desk Officer, Fax number (202) 395–5167 or via the Internet at Wendy_L_Liberante@omb.gov.

Dated: March 14, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,
Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–6625 Filed 3–19–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–FF–P
Background


Section 3314 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 1993 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (50 U.S.C. 98h–I) formally established a Market Impact Committee (the “Committee”) to “advise the National Defense Stockpile Manager on the projected domestic and foreign economic effects of all acquisitions and disposals of materials from the stockpile.” The Committee must also balance market impact concerns with the statutory requirement to protect the U.S. Government against avoidable loss.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Commerce, State, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Interior, the Treasury, and Homeland Security, and is co-chaired by the Departments of Commerce and State. The FY 1993 NDAA directs the Committee to consult with industry representatives that produce, process, or consume the materials stored in or of interest to the National Defense Stockpile Manager.

In Attachment 1, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) lists the quantities of materials associated with three proposed material research and development projects to supplement its FY 2012 Annual Materials Plan. Two of the material research and development projects relate to DLA establishing vendor-owned buffer inventories in the United States for cadmium zinc tellurium (CZT) substrates and trichlorobenzene (TCB) up to the levels enumerated in Attachment 1. In these material research and development projects, DLA would enter into arrangements with vendors to maintain inventories of the two materials with options that DLA could purchase material if needed. In the third material research and development project, DLA would establish a DLA administered material reclamation process project to recycle rhenium alloy which would be re-introduced into the market by the vendor up to the level enumerated in Attachment 1.

The Committee is seeking public comments on the proposed market impact of the material research and development projects. Public comments are an important element of the Committee’s market impact review process.

DLA is required to supplement its FY 2012 Annual Materials Plan to account for the three material research and development projects because DLA will be using the Defense National Stockpile Transaction Fund to pay for the three material research and development projects. The quantities listed in Attachment 1 are not acquisition target quantities, but rather a statement of the proposed maximum quantity of each listed material that may be associated with the three material research and development projects in FY 2012. DLA is not proposing to acquire these materials and add them to the National Defense Stockpile. The quantity of each material that will actually be associated with the three material research and development projects will depend on the market for the materials during the fiscal year as well as on the quantity of each material approved for these material research and development projects by Congress.

Submission of Comments

The Committee requests that interested parties provide written comments, supporting data and documentation, and any other relevant information on the potential market impact of the quantities associated with the three material research and development projects. All comments must be submitted to the address indicated in this notice. All comments submitted through email must include the phrase “Market Impact Committee Notice of Inquiry” in the subject line.

The Committee encourages interested persons who wish to comment to do so at the earliest possible time. The period for submission of comments will close on April 19, 2012. The Committee will consider all comments received before the close of the comment period. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be considered, if possible, but their consideration cannot be assured.

All comments submitted in response to this notice will be made a matter of public record and will be available for public inspection and copying. Anyone submitting business confidential information should clearly identify the business confidential portion of the submission and also provide a non-confidential submission that can be placed in the public record. The Committee will seek to protect such information to the extent permitted by law.

The Office of Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, displays public comments on the BIS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Web site at http://www.bis.doc.gov/foia. This office does not maintain a separate public inspection facility. If you have technical difficulties accessing this Web site, please call BIS’s Office of Administration at (202) 482–1900 for assistance.

Dated: March 14, 2012.

Kevin J. Wolf,
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

Attachment 1

PROPOSED SUPPLEMENT TO FISCAL YEAR 2012 ANNUAL MATERIALS PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Footnote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium Zinc Tellurium (CZT) substrates</td>
<td>cm²</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichlorobenzene (TCB)</td>
<td>Lbs</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhenium Alloy</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Vendor-owned buffer inventory material research and development project.
2 Material reclamation research and development project.