

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**Agency Information Collection****Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request**

In compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collections that require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The information collections listed below will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, comments and recommendations regarding the information collections would be most useful if received by the Agency within 60 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the address listed at the end of the notice. You can obtain a copy of the collection instrument by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him.

1. *State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Claim (SSA-199-U2) and Subpart V—Payments for Vocational Rehabilitation Services, 20 CFR Sections 404.2104, 404.2108, 404.2113, 404.2117, 404.2121, 416.2204, 416.2208, 416.2213 and 416.2217—0960-0310.* The information collected on Form SSA-199-U2 and through these current rules is used by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine if State vocational rehabilitation agencies are providing appropriate services, including referrals when necessary, and whether those claims for services should be paid. The respondents are the 80-100 State vocational rehabilitation agencies and alternate participants who offer vocational and employment services for SSA beneficiaries.

Number of Respondents: 80-100.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Number of Responses: 16,300.

Average Burden Per Response: Varies from 23 minutes to 4 hours.

Estimated Annual Burden: 9,048 hours.

2. *SSA/DDS Cost-Effectiveness Measurement System (CEMS) Data Reporting Form—0960-0384.* Form SSA-1461 is used by SSA to collect data necessary for detailed analysis and evaluation of costs incurred by State Disability Determination Services

(DDS's) in making determinations of disability. The data are also used in determining funding levels for each DDS. The respondents are State DDS's that collect data for cost analysis and evaluation.

Number of Respondents: 52.

Frequency of Response: 4.

Average Burden Per Response: 6 hours.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,248 hours.

Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235.

Dated: June 2, 2000.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/D-196]

WTO Consultations Regarding Argentina—Patent and Test Data Protection

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that on May 30, 2000, the United States requested consultations with Argentina under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), regarding Argentina's failure to fully implement its obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) with respect to its legal regimes governing patents and data protection. The United States considers Argentina's patent and data protection regimes to be inconsistent with its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement, including Articles 27, 28, 31, 34, 39, 50, 62, 65 and 70 of the Agreement. Pursuant to Article 4.3 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), such consultations are to take place within a period of 30 days from the date of the request, or within a period otherwise mutually agreed between the United States and Argentina. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of

the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before July 28, 2000, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Sandy McKinzy, Monitoring and Enforcement Unit, Office of the General Counsel, Room 122, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508, Attn: Argentina—Patent and Test Data Protection Dispute: Telephone: (202) 395-3582.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Kho, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., (202) 395-3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)) requires that notice and opportunity for comment be provided after the United States submits or receives a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel. Consistent with this obligation, but in an effort to provide additional opportunity for comment, USTR is providing notice that consultations have been requested pursuant to the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding. If such consultations should fail to resolve the matter and a dispute settlement panel is established pursuant to the DSU, such panel, which would hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, would be expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the United States

On May 6, 1999, the United States filed a consultation request (WT/DS171/1) regarding Argentina's failure to provide a system of exclusive marketing rights for pharmaceutical products, and to ensure that changes in its laws and regulations do not result in a lesser degree of consistency with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement. Consultations were held on June 15, 1999 and again on July 27, 1999. On May 30, 2000, the United States supplemented its claims in this dispute with additional concerns that have arisen as a result of Argentina's failure to fully implement its remaining TRIPS obligations that came due on January 1, 2000. These new concerns relate to Argentina's regimes governing patents in Law 24,481 (as amended by Law 24,572), Law 24,603, and Decree 260/96; and data protection in Law 24,766 and Regulation 440/98, and in other related statutes and regulations. Specifically,