

through a request for written comments to the draft proposal as well as discussions and exchange of information at meetings such as are being announced here. OSM has sent the draft proposal to State and Tribal representatives and to industry, local and national citizen and environmental groups.

DATES: OSM will hold meetings on: November 13 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Charleston, WV and from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Denver, CO; November 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Madisonville, KY and at 7:00 p.m. in St. Clairsville, OH; November 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Hazard, KY; November 19 from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. in Johnstown, PA and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Paul, VA; and November 24 at 6:30 p.m. in Crossville, TN.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Heart o' Town Hotel, 1000 Washington Street East in Charleston, WV; at the Executive Tower Hotel (Adams Room), 1405 Curtis Street in Denver, CO; at the Days Inn, 1900 Lantaff Blvd. in Madisonville, KY; at the Hampton Inn (Pinto Room), 51130 National Road in St. Clairsville, OH; at the Hazard City Hall, 700 Main Street in Hazard, KY; at the Holiday Inn, 250 Market Street in Johnstown, PA; at the Oxbow Center, 16620 East Riverside Drive in St. Paul, VA; and at the Ramada Inn, Highway 27 at I-40 in Crossville, TN. Any individual who requires special accommodation to attend a meeting should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: D.J. Growitz, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240; telephone (202) 208-2634. E-mail: dgrowitz@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OSM is seeking to increase reclamation under Title IV of SMCRA. In a **Federal Register** notice published on October 24, 1997, (62 FR 55365) OSM announced the availability of the early draft of a proposal to enhance reclamation under the abandoned mine land (AML) program. OSM also announced in that notice that it would hold meetings with interested persons to discuss the draft proposal and publish a schedule for those meetings in the **Federal Register**. When a proposed rule is developed, it will be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, and public hearings will be held on request.

The proposal may be obtained from FAX ON DEMAND by calling 202-219-

1703 and following the instructions on the recorded message. The October 24 **Federal Register** notice contains additional background information.

Dated: October 30, 1997.

Ruth E. Stokes,

Acting Assistant Director, Program Support.

[FR Doc. 97-29133 Filed 11-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Parts 2 and 3

[Docket No. 970428100-7256-02]

RIN 0651-AA87

Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Rules

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of hearing and reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will hold a public hearing, and reopen the comment period, on changes to certain rules and practices of the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board that were proposed in June of 1997 (62 FR 30802, June 5, 1997). Interested members of the public are invited to testify at the public hearing and to submit written comments on these proposed changes.

DATES: The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 1997, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Those wishing to present oral testimony at the hearing must request an opportunity to do so no later than Friday, December 5, 1997.

Speakers may provide a written copy of their testimony for inclusion in the record of the proceedings no later than Wednesday, December 17, 1997.

Written comments will be accepted by the PTO until December 10, 1997.

Written comments and transcripts of the hearing will be available for public inspection on or about Wednesday, January 7, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 1997, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Conference Room, located on the 9th floor of Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

Requests to testify should be sent to Ellen Seeherman by telephone at (703) 308-9300, ext. 206, by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-9333, or by mail marked to her attention and

addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, Box TTAB-No Fee, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513.

Written comments may be sent by mail addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, Box TTAB-No Fee, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513, marked to the attention of Ellen J. Seeherman. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile transmission to (703) 308-9333, marked to the attention of Ellen J. Seeherman.

Written comments and transcripts of the hearing will be maintained for public inspection in Suite 900, on the 9th Floor of the South Tower Building, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen J. Seeherman, Administrative Trademark Judge, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, by telephone at (703) 308-9300, ext. 206, or by mail marked to her attention and addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, Box TTAB-No Fee, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513 or by facsimile transmission marked to her attention and sent to (703) 308-9333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice of proposed rulemaking to amend certain rules governing practice before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board was published in the **Federal Register** on June 5, 1997 (62 FR 30802) and in the Official Gazette on June 24, 1997 (1199 TMOG 88). A number of the comments made in response to that notice suggested that a public hearing be held on the proposed rules changes. Accordingly, the PTO has decided to hold a public hearing on the proposed rules changes on December 10, 1997. Moreover, some trade organizations expressed the concern that, because the comment period occurred during the summer months, some practitioners and other interested parties and entities were not aware of the proposed amendments. Accordingly, the PTO has decided to reopen the comment period. All comments previously submitted will be considered together with any additional written comments which are submitted by December 10, 1997.

It should be noted that, in view of the comments already received, the PTO has determined that it will not adopt the proposed changes to Sections 2.120(d) and 2.120(h) regarding limiting the number of requests for production of documents and the requests for admission which may be served.

Dated: October 29, 1997.

Bruce A. Lehman,

*Assistant Secretary of Commerce and
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.*
[FR Doc. 97-29161 Filed 11-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Parts 225 and 252

[DFARS Case 97-D028]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Commercial Ball or Roller Bearings—Components of Noncommercial Items

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DOD).

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Director of Defense Procurement is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to remove domestic source restrictions on commercial ball or roller bearings that are components of noncommercial end items.

DATES: Comment date: Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before January 5, 1998, to be considered in the formulation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should submit written comments to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Amy Williams, PDUSD (A&T)DP(DAR). IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telefax number (703) 602-0350.

E-mail comments submitted over the Internet should be addressed to: dfars@acq.osd.mil.

Please cite DFARS Case 97-D028 in all correspondence related to this issue. E-mail comments should cite DFARS Case 97-D028 in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, (703) 602-0131.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This rule proposes amendments to DFARS 225.7019-2 and the associated clause at 252.225-7016, Restriction on Acquisition of Ball and Roller Bearings, to remove domestic source restrictions on commercial ball or roller bearings that are components of noncommercial end items. This is consistent with the existing language at DFARS 212.504(a)(xviii), which provides that 10 U.S.C. 2534, Miscellaneous Limitations on the Procurement of

Goods Other Than United States Goods, is not applicable to subcontracts at any tier for the acquisition of commercial items or commercial components. The language at 212.504(a)(xviii) was added to the DFARS as part of the implementation of Section 8003 of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (41 U.S.C. 430), which provides that the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall include a list of provisions of law that are inapplicable to contracts for commercial items.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The proposed rule may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.* An initial regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared and is summarized as follows: The objective of this rule is to be consistent with the existing regulations relating to the acquisition of commercial items and commercial components. The rule will apply to all offerors and contractors offering noncommercial end items that contain commercial ball or roller bearings as components, and all suppliers of such commercial bearings, but will have no effect if another exception to 10 U.S.C. 2534 already applies. There is no data available to estimate the number of small entities involved, because DD Form 350 data does not provide information regarding components. However, the rule will not affect acquisitions using simplified acquisition procedures, as an exception covering such acquisitions already exists. Furthermore, the restriction has already been waived for bearings from qualifying countries. The proposed rule will remove the requirement for offerors and contractors to track the origin of commercial ball or roller bearings used as components in noncommercial end items. The proposed rule may increase competition from manufacturers of foreign, nonqualifying country commercial ball or roller bearings in affected acquisitions.

Comments are invited from small businesses and other interested parties. Comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subparts also will be considered in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should be submitted separately and should cite DFARS Case 97-D028 in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the proposed rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the

approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 225 and 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

*Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition
Regulations Council.*

Therefore, 48 CFR parts 225 and 252 are proposed to be amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 225 and 252 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 225—FOREIGN ACQUISITION

2. Section 225.7019-2 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(2) to read as follows:

225.7019-2 Exceptions.

(a) * * *

(2) Purchases of commercial items (end items or components) incorporating ball or roller bearings or purchases of ball or roller bearings that are commercial components of noncommercial items.

* * * * *

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

3. Section 252.225-7016 is amended by revising the clause date and paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (f) to read as follows:

252.225-7016 Restriction on acquisition of ball and roller bearings.

* * * * *

RESTRICTION ON ACQUISITION OF BALL AND ROLLER BEARINGS (XXX 19XX)

* * * * *

(c)(1) * * *

(i) The end items or components containing ball or roller bearings are commercial items or the bearings are commercial components of noncommercial items; or

* * * * *

(f) The Contractor agrees to insert this clause, including this paragraph (f), in every subcontract and purchase order issued in performance of this contract, unless items acquired in the subcontract or purchase order are—

(1) Commercial items; or

(2) Items that do not contain ball or roller bearings.

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 97-29122 Filed 11-3-97; 8:45 am]

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