

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before June 1, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Department Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instruction should be directed to Theresa J. DeMaio, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Room 3127, FOB 4, Washington, DC 20233-9150, (301) 457-4894.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This research program is used by the Census Bureau and survey sponsors to improve questionnaires and procedures, reduce respondent burden, and ultimately increase the quality of data collected in the Census Bureau censuses and surveys. The clearance is used to conduct pretesting of decennial, demographic, and economic census and survey questionnaires prior to fielding them. Pretesting activities are generally small-scale and involve one of the following methods for identifying measurement problems with the questionnaire or survey procedure: cognitive interviews (that is, intensive, one-on-one interviews in which the respondent is typically asked to think aloud as he or she answers survey questions), focus groups (that is, group sessions guided by a moderator that are focused on a particular issue), respondent debriefing (that is, standardized debriefing questionnaires administered to respondents who have participated in a field test), behavior coding of respondent/interviewer interaction (that is, systematic coding of of the question/answer exchange process to identify situations that reflect problems with the questionnaire), and split sample experiments (that is, testing alternative versions of questionnaires).

This clearance has been in existence since 1991, and many valuable pretesting activities have been conducted. For example, cognitive interviews and respondent debriefing questionnaires have been vital components of the development and pretesting of the Survey of Program

Dynamics; a split sample experiment was used to evaluate proposed questionnaire revisions for the Survey of Minority Owned Business Enterprises; focus groups have been used to gather important information as input to the Census Bureau's plans for enumerating American Indians and migrant workers in Census 2000; respondent debriefings have provided valuable data for understanding how respondents understand the concept of residence and interpret the residence rules for the decennial census; behavior coding provided useful information in revising the questionnaire for the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

The clearance operates in the following manner: A block of hours is reserved at the beginning of each year, and the particular activities that will be conducted under the clearance are not specified in advance. The Census Bureau provides information to OMB about the specific pretesting activities on a flow basis throughout the year. OMB is notified of each pretesting activity in a letter that gives specific details about the activity, rather than by means of individual clearance packages. At the end of each year, a report is submitted to OMB that summarizes the number of hours used as well as the nature and results of the activities completed under the clearance.

Some modifications of the clearance from previous years are planned. The number of hours is expanded from 4,500 per year to 10,000 per year to allow for larger-scale questionnaire experiments with increased analytical power. In addition, incentives as a survey procedure may also be the subject of research under the clearance.

**II. Method of Collection**

Mail, telephone, face-to-face; paper-and-pencil, CATI, CAPI

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0607-0725.

*Form Number:* Various.

*Type of Review:* Regular.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, farms, business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 1 hour.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 10,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* There is no cost to respondents, except for their time to complete the questionnaire.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13 USC, Sections 131, 141, 142, 161, 181, 182, 193, and 301.

**IV. Request for Comments**

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

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 25, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-8438 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Economic Development Administration**

**Notice of Petitions by Producing Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance**

**AGENCY:** Economic Development Administration (EDA).

**ACTION:** To give firms an opportunity to comment.

Petitions have been accepted for filing on the dates indicated from the firms listed below:

**LIST OF PETITION ACTION BY TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PERIOD 02/16/98-03/25/98**

Firm name	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
River Ltd. ....	115 Anawan Street, Fall River, MA 02721.	02/17/98	Women's Slacks and Shorts.

## LIST OF PETITION ACTION BY TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PERIOD 02/16/98–03/25/98—Continued

Firm name	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
Bittersweet Creations .....	Highway 7, Climax Springs, MO 65324.	02/20/98	Pine Cabinets, Drawers, Benches and Shelves.
Thiel Tool and Engineering Co., Inc.	4622 Bulwer Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63147.	03/06/98	Stamped Steel Engine Cradle Brackets.
J.D. Engineering & Associates, Inc.	905 Dell Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008.	03/06/98	Medical Electro-Surgical Instruments and Parts of Semiconductor Manufacturing Equipment.
Corwell-Carr Co., Inc .....	626 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468.	03/06/98	Marine Doors, Frames and Related Hardware.
Perfection Hy-Test Company ....	100 Perfection Way, Timmonsville, SC 29161.	03/12/98	Automobile Clutch Sets and Parts, Starters and Water Pumps.
International Crystal Manufacturing Co., Inc.	10 North Lee, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.	03/12/98	Quartz Crystals for Two-Way Radio Equipment.
Coeur d'Alene Fiber Fuels, Inc	3550 West Seltice Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.	03/12/98	Wood Pellets and Cat Litter.
MRC Technology, Inc .....	P.O. Box 1287, South Bend, IN 46624.	03/12/98	Battery Chargers, Motor Starters, Toll Road Controls, and Pump Controllers.
Hart Tackle Company, Inc .....	300 West Main, Stratford, OK 74872.	03/16/98	Fishing Lures and Tackles.
A.J. Murphy Company, Inc .....	P.O. Box 2669, Syracuse, NY 13220.	03/16/98	Cold Formed Metal Fasteners for Light and Heavy Industrial Applications.
R.N.B. Enterprises, Inc .....	17816 North 25th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85023.	03/25/98	Printed Circuit Boards.
Almega/Tru-Flex, Inc .....	3917 State Road 106, Bremen, IN 46506.	03/25/98	Power Supply Cords and Electrical Wiring.
Natural Selections, Inc .....	435 South Norris Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719.	03/25/98	Wooden Furniture.

The petitions were submitted pursuant to Section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2341). Consequently, the United States Department of Commerce has initiated separate investigations to determine whether increased imports into the United States of articles like or directly competitive with those produced by each firm contributed importantly to total or partial separation of the firm's workers, or threat thereof, and to a decrease in sales or production of each petitioning firm.

Any party having a substantial interest in the proceedings may request a public hearing on the matter. A request for a hearing must be received by Trade Adjustment Assistance, Room 7315, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230, no later than the close of business of the tenth calendar day following the publication of this notice.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance official program number and title of the program under which these petitions are submitted is 11.313, Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Dated: March 24, 1998

**Anthony J. Meyer,**  
Coordinator, Trade Adjustment and  
Technical Assistance.

[FR Doc. 98-8341 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-24-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### Application for Trade Finance Match-Maker Program

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instruction should be directed to: John Shuman, Office of Finance, (202) 482-3277.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

## I. Abstract

The Office of Finance assists U.S. firms in identifying trade finance opportunities and promotes the competitiveness of U.S. financial services in international trade. The Office of Finance interacts with private financial institutions in insurance, banking, leasing, factoring, barter, and counter trade; U.S. financing agencies, such as the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and others. To facilitate contact between exporters and financial institutions, the Office of Finance is developing an interactive INTERNET trade finance match-making program to link exporters seeking trade finance with banks and other financial institutions. The information collected from financial institutions regarding the trade finance products and services they offer will be compiled into a database. An exporter will be able to electronically submit a one page form identifying the potential export transaction and type of financing requested. This information will be electronically matched with the financial institution(s) that meet the requirements of the exporter. After a match has been made, a message will be electronically sent to both the exporter and the financial institution containing information about the match, and