

information is used by the Board to forecast labor costs and measure the efficiency of the reporting railroads. The information is also used by the Board to evaluate proposed regulated transactions that may impact rail employees, including mergers and consolidations, acquisitions of control, purchases, and abandonments. Other Federal agencies and industry groups, including the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and Association of American Railroads (AAR), use the information contained in the reports to monitor railroad operations. Certain information from these reports is compiled and published on the Board's website, [https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ\\_reports.html](https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ_reports.html). The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

#### Description of Collection 4

*Title:* Monthly Report of Number of Employees of Class I Railroads (Wage Form C).

*OMB Control Number:* 2140-0007.

*Form Number:* STB Form C.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Respondents:* Class I railroads.

*Number of Respondents:* Seven.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 1.25 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Monthly.

*Total Annual Hour Burden:* 105 hours annually.

*Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden" Cost:* None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

*Needs and Uses:* This collection shows, for each reporting carrier, the average number of employees at mid-month in the six job-classification groups that encompass all railroad employees. See 49 CFR 1246. The information is used by the Board to forecast labor costs and measure the efficiency of the reporting railroads. The information is also used by the Board to evaluate the impact on rail employees of proposed regulated transactions, including mergers and consolidations, acquisitions of control, purchases, and abandonments. Other Federal agencies and industry groups, including the RRB, BLS, and AAR, use the information contained in these reports to monitor railroad operations. Certain information from these reports is compiled and published on the Board's website, [https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ\\_reports.html](https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ_reports.html). The information contained in these reports is not available from any other source.

#### Description of Collection 5

*Title:* Annual Report of Cars Loaded and Cars Terminated.

*OMB Control Number:* 2140-0011.

*Form Number:* Form STB-54.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Respondents:* Class I railroads.

*Number of Respondents:* Seven.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Four hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Annual.

*Total Annual Hour Burden:* 28 hours annually.

*Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden" Cost:* None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

*Needs and Uses:* This collection reports the number of cars loaded and cars terminated on the reporting carrier's line. See 49 CFR 1247. Information in this report is entered into the Board's Uniform Rail Costing System (URCS), which is a cost measurement methodology. URCS, which was developed by the Board pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 11161, is used as a tool in rail rate proceedings, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 10707(d), to calculate the variable costs associated with providing a particular service. The Board also uses URCS to carry out more effectively other of its regulatory responsibilities, including: acting on railroad requests for authority to engage in Board-regulated financial transactions such as mergers, acquisitions of control, and consolidations, see 49 U.S.C. 11323-11324; analyzing the information that the Board obtains through the annual railroad industry waybill sample, see 49 CFR 1244; measuring off-branch costs in railroad abandonment proceedings, in accordance with 49 CFR 1152.32(n); developing the "rail cost adjustment factors," in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 10708; and conducting investigations and rulemakings. This collection is compiled and published on the Board's website, [https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ\\_reports.html](https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ_reports.html). There is no other source for the information contained in this report.

#### Description of Collection 6

*Title:* Quarterly Report of Freight Commodity Statistics (Form QCS).

*OMB Control Number:* 2140-0001.

*Form Number:* Form QCS.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Respondents:* Class I railroads.

*Number of Respondents:* Seven.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 0.25 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Quarterly, with an annual summation.

*Total Annual Hour Burden:* 8.75 hours annually.

*Total Annual "Non-Hour Burden" Cost:* None identified. Filings are submitted electronically to the Board.

*Needs and Uses:* This collection, which is based on information contained in carload waybills used by railroads in the ordinary course of business, reports car loadings and total revenues by commodity code for each commodity that moved on the railroad during the reporting period. See 49 CFR 1248. Information in this report is entered into the Board's URCS, the uses of which are explained under Collection Number 5. This collection is compiled and published on the Board's website, [https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ\\_reports.html](https://www.stb.gov/stb/industry/econ_reports.html). There is no other source for the information contained in this report.

The Board makes this submission because, under the PRA, a federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), federal agencies are required to provide, prior to an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 60-day notice and comment period through publication in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: July 6, 2018.

**Jeff Herzig,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2018-14810 Filed 7-10-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

#### OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2018-0025]

#### Procedures To Consider Requests for Exclusion of Particular Products From the Determination of Action Pursuant to Section 301: China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In a notice published on June 20, 2018, the U.S. Trade Representative

(Trade Representative) determined that appropriate action to obtain the elimination of China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation includes the imposition of an additional *ad valorem* duty of 25 percent on products from China classified in certain enumerated subheadings of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). See 83 FR 28710. The June 20 notice also announced that the Trade Representative would establish a process by which U.S. stakeholders may request that particular products classified within a covered tariff subheading be excluded from the additional duties. Today's notice sets out the specific procedures and criteria related to requests for product exclusions, and opens up a docket for the receipt of exclusion requests.

**DATES:** USTR must receive requests to exclude a particular product by October 9, 2018. Responses to a request for exclusion of a particular product are due 14 days after the request is posted in docket number USTR-2018-0025 on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Any replies to responses to an exclusion request are due 7 days after the close of the 14 day response period.

**ADDRESSES:** USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting requests for exclusion and responses to requests in section B below. The docket number is USTR-2018-0025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions about the product exclusion process, contact USTR Assistant General Counsel Arthur Tsao or Director of Industrial Goods Justin Hoffmann at (202) 395-5725. For questions on customs classification or implementation of additional duties, contact [Traderemedy@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:Traderemedy@cbp.dhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Background**

On August 18, 2017, the Trade Representative initiated an investigation of the government of China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation. See 82 FR 40213. The proceedings in the investigation up through the Trade Representative's determination that China's acts, policies, and practices are actionable under section 301(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2411(b)) are set out in the notice published at 83 FR 14906 (April 6, 2018).

The April 6, 2018 notice invited public comment on a proposed action in the investigation: The imposition of an additional *ad valorem* duty of 25 percent on products from China classified in a list of 1,333 tariff subheadings. As explained in the notice, the value of the products on the list was approximately \$50 billion in terms of estimated annual trade value for calendar year 2018, and the level was appropriate both in light of the estimated harm to the U.S. economy, and to obtain elimination of China's harmful acts, policies, and practices. USTR invited interested persons to provide comments and participate in a hearing. The public submissions and a transcript of the hearing are available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) in docket number USTR-2018-0005.

USTR and the interagency Section 301 Committee carefully reviewed the public comments and the testimony from the three day public hearing. USTR and the Section 301 Committee also carefully reviewed the extent to which the tariff subheadings in the April 6, 2018 notice included products containing industrially significant technology, including technologies and products related to the "Made in China 2025" program. Based on this review process, on June 20, 2018, the Trade Representative determined that appropriate action in this investigation includes the imposition of an additional *ad valorem* duty of 25 percent on products from China classified in the 818 subheadings of the HTSUS set out in Annex A of the notice published at 83 FR 28710 (June 20, 2018). The additional duties on these products took effect on July 6, 2018.

During the notice and comment process, a number of interested persons asserted that specific products within a particular tariff subheading only were available from China, that imposition of additional duties on the specific products would cause severe economic harm to a U.S. interest, and that the specific products were not strategically important or related to the "Made in China 2025" program. In light of such concerns, the Trade Representative determined to establish a process by which U.S. stakeholders may request that particular products classified within a covered HTSUS subheading be excluded from the additional duties. That process is set out in the remainder of this notice.

**B. Procedures To Request the Exclusion of Additional Particular Products**

USTR invites interested persons, including trade associations, to submit requests for exclusion from the

additional duties of a particular product classified within a HTSUS subheading set out in Annex A of the notice published at 83 FR 28710 (June 20, 2018). As explained in more detail below, each request must specifically identify a particular product, and provide supporting data and the rationale for the requested exclusion. USTR will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis, taking into account whether the exclusion would undermine the objective of the Section 301 investigation. Any exclusion will be effective starting from the July 6, 2018 effective date of the additional duties, and extend for *one year* after the publication of the exclusion determination in the **Federal Register**. In other words, an exclusion, if granted, will apply retroactively to the July 6 date of the imposition of the additional duties. USTR periodically will announce decisions on pending requests.

*1. Requests for Exclusion of Particular Products*

With regard to product identification, any request for exclusion must include the following information:

- Identification of the particular product in terms of the physical characteristics (e.g., dimensions, material composition, or other characteristics) that distinguish it from other products within the covered 8-digit subheading. USTR will not consider requests that identify the product at issue in terms of the identity of the producer, importer, ultimate consumer, actual use or chief use, or trademarks or tradenames. USTR will not consider requests that identify the product using criteria that cannot be made available to the public.
  - The 10 digit subheading of the HTSUS most applicable to the particular product requested for exclusion.
  - Requestors also may submit information on the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to administer the exclusion.
  - Requestors must provide the annual quantity and value of the Chinese-origin product that the requestor purchased in each of the last three years. For trade association requestors, please provide such information based on your members' data. If precise annual quantity and value information is not available, please provide an estimate and explain the basis for the estimation.
- With regard to the rationale for the requested exclusion, each request for exclusion should address the following factors:
- Whether the particular product is available only from China. In addressing

this factor, requestors should address specifically whether the particular product and/or a comparable product is available from sources in the United States and/or in third countries.

- Whether the imposition of additional duties on the particular product would cause severe economic harm to the requestor or other U.S. interests.
- Whether the particular product is strategically important or related to “Made in China 2025” or other Chinese industrial programs.

Requestors may also provide any other information or data that they consider relevant to an evaluation of the request.

Any request that contains business confidential information (BCI) must be accompanied by a public version. The public version will be posted on *regulations.gov*.

## 2. Responses to Requests for Exclusions

After a request for exclusion of a particular product is posted on docket number USTR 2018–0025, interested persons will have 14 days to respond to the request, indicating support or opposition and providing reasons for their view. All responses must clearly identify the specific request for exclusion being addressed. You can view requests for exclusions on *www.regulations.gov* by entering docket number USTR–2018–0025 in the search field on the home page.

## 3. Replies to Responses to Requests for Exclusions

After a response is posted on docket number USTR 2018–0025, interested persons will have the opportunity to reply to the response. Any reply must be posted within 7 days after the close of the 14 day response period. All replies clearly must identify the specific responses being addressed.

## 4. Submission Instructions

As noted above, interested persons must submit requests for exclusions by October 9, 2018; any responses to those requests must be submitted within 14 days after the requests are posted; and any reply to a response must be submitted within 7 days after the close of the 14 day response period. Interested persons seeking to exclude two or more products must submit a separate request for each product, *i.e.*, one product per request.

All submissions must include a statement that the submitter certifies that the information provided is complete and correct to the best of his or her knowledge.

To assist in review of requests for exclusion, USTR has prepared a request form that will be posted on the USTR website under “Enforcement/Section 301 investigations” and on the *www.regulations.gov* docket in the “supporting documents” section. USTR strongly encourages interested persons to use the form to submit requests. All submissions must be in English and sent electronically via *www.regulations.gov*.

## 5. Submitting a Product Exclusion Request

To submit requests via *www.regulations.gov*, enter document ID number USTR–2018–0025–0001 on the home page and click “search.” The site will provide a search-results page listing the **Federal Register** Notice associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice and click on the link titled “comment now!”. Once posted on the electronic docket, the exclusion request will be viewable in the “primary documents” section.

File names for requests for exclusions should include the 10 digit subheading of the HTSUS most applicable to the particular product and the name of the person or entity submitting the comments (*e.g.*, 1234567890 Initech). If the request includes BCI, then two files must be submitted—the business confidential version and a public version. The file names should indicate the version, *e.g.*, 1234567890 Initech BC and 1234567890 Initech P. Additional instructions on business confidential submissions can be found below.

## 6. Submitting a Response to a Product Exclusion Request

To respond to a request for exclusion, please find the request in the “primary documents” section of the docket and click on the link titled “comment now!” associated with that specific request. Responses made on requests for exclusion will appear in the “comments” section of the docket.

File names for responses to requests should include the document ID of the request and the name of the person or entity submitting the response (*e.g.*, USTR–2018–0025–0005 Initrode). If the response includes BCI, then two files must be submitted—the BCI version and a public version. The file names should indicate the version, *e.g.*, USTR–2018–0025–0001 Initrode BC and USTR–2018–0025–0001 Initrode P.

## 7. Submitting a Reply to a Response on a Product Exclusion Request

To reply to a response made to an exclusion request, please find the exclusion request that is the subject of the response in the “primary

documents” section of the docket and click on the link titled “comment now!”. Replies will appear in the “comments” section of the docket.

File names for replies should include the document ID of the response and the name of the person or entity submitting the reply (*e.g.*, USTR–2018–0025–0020 Initech). If the reply includes BCI, then two files must be submitted—the BCI version and a public version. The file names should indicate the version, *e.g.*, USTR–2018–0025–0020 Initech BC and USTR–2018–0025–0020 Initech P.

For further information on using the *www.regulations.gov* website, please consult the resources provided on the website by clicking on “How to Use Regulations.gov” on the bottom of the home page.

## 8. Document Format Instructions

USTR prefers that you submit requests for product exclusions in an attached document. If you attach a document, it is sufficient to type “see attached” in the “comment” field. USTR strongly prefers that you make submissions using the request form that will be posted on the USTR website under “Enforcement/Section 301 investigations” and on the *www.regulations.gov* docket in the “supporting documents” section saved as a searchable Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf). If you do not use the USTR form, USTR prefers submissions made in Microsoft Word (.doc) or searchable Adobe Acrobat (.pdf). If you use an application other than those two, please indicate the name of the application in the “comment” field.

Please do not attach separate cover letters to electronic submissions; rather, include any information that might appear in a cover letter in the comments themselves. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits, annexes, or other attachments in the same file as the comment itself, rather than submitting them as separate files.

For any documents submitted electronically containing BCI, the file name of the business confidential version should end with the characters “BC”. Any page containing BCI must be clearly marked “BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL” on the top of that page and the submission should clearly indicate, via brackets, highlighting, or other means, the specific information that is business confidential. If you request business confidential treatment, you must certify in writing that disclosure of the information would endanger trade secrets or profitability, and that the information would not customarily be released to the public. Filers of submissions containing BCI

also must submit a public version of their submissions. The file name of the public version should end with the character "P". The "BC" and "P" should follow the rest of the file name. If these procedures are not sufficient to protect BCI or otherwise protect business interests, please contact the USTR Section 301 line at (202) 395-5725 to discuss whether alternative arrangements are possible.

USTR will post submissions in the docket for public inspection, except BCI. You can view submissions on the <https://www.regulations.gov> website by entering docket number USTR-2018-0025 in the search field on the home page.

**Robert E. Lighthizer,**  
*United States Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 2018-14820 Filed 7-10-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3290-F8-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Notice of Request To Release Airport Property at Charleston International Airport, Charleston, South Carolina

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is considering a request to release and authorize the sale of 19.098 acres of airport property located at the Charleston International Airport, Charleston, South Carolina, and invites public comment on this notice. The airport property is planned to be sold by the Charleston County Aviation Authority (CCAA) for the proposed use of aircraft manufacturing. Currently, ownership of the property provides for protection of FAR Part 77 surfaces and compatible land use which would continue to be protected with deed restrictions required in the transfer of land ownership.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before August 10, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered to the FAA at the following address: Aimee McCormick, Federal Aviation Administration, Atlanta Airports District Office, 1701 Columbia Ave., Ste. 220, College Park, GA 30337.

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to: Hernan Pena, Deputy Director, Charleston County Aviation Authority, 5500 International

Blvd., #101, North Charleston, SC 29418.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Aimee McCormick, Federal Aviation Administration, Atlanta Airports District Office, 1701 Columbia Ave., Ste. 220, College Park, GA 30337, [aimee.mccormick@faa.gov](mailto:aimee.mccormick@faa.gov). The request to release property may be reviewed, by appointment, in person at this same location.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 9, 2017, CCAA requested the FAA to release 19.089 acres of airport property. The request will allow CCAA to transfer ownership to the South Carolina Department of Commerce for the use of aircraft manufacturing. In return, the Department of Commerce will transfer 33.715 acres of property to CCAA. The fair market value of the two properties involved are of equal value. The use of the 33.715 acres will allow CCAA to construct a public parking facility. The FAA may approve the request, in whole or in part, no sooner than thirty days after the publication of this notice.

Any person may inspect, by appointment, the request in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. In addition, any person may, upon appointment and request, inspect the application, notice and other documents determined by the FAA to be related to the application in person at the Charleston International Airport.

Issued in Atlanta, GA, on July 3, 2018,

**Larry F. Clark,**

*Manager, Atlanta Airports District Office.*

[FR Doc. 2018-14785 Filed 7-10-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of New Approval of Information Collection: Safety Assurance System (SAS) External Portal

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for a new information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice

with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on February 23, 2018. The collection involves an internet-based tool, Safety Assurance System (SAS) External Portal. SAS External Portal is used by the FAA's Office of Flight Standards to conduct initial certification, routine surveillance, and certificate management for applicants and certificate holders. The information to be collected will be used to better facilitate efficient certification, surveillance and certificate management activities.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by August 10, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. Comments should be addressed to the attention of the Desk Officer, Department of Transportation/FAA, and sent via electronic mail to [oira\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oira_submission@omb.eop.gov), or faxed to (202) 395-6974, or mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

**Public Comments Invited:** You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Hall at (940) 594-5913, or by email at [Barbara.L.Hall@faa.gov](mailto:Barbara.L.Hall@faa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Control Number:* 2120-XXXX.

*Title:* Safety Assurance System External Portal.

*Form Numbers:* (Pending) Initial Certification Data Collection Tool (14 CFR 121 and 135) and Initial Certification Data Collection Tool (14 CFR 145).

*Type of Review:* This is a new information collection.

**Background:** Safety Assurance System (SAS) External Portal is a tool used by aviation industry applicants and certificate holders to provide information to the FAA, primarily with Principal Inspectors and Certification Project Managers. SAS External Portal