

Supporting Statement
Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles
1651-0014

A. Justification

1. 19 U.S.C. 1498 provides that when personal and household effects are claimed to be free of duty under the above items and do not accompany the importer on his arrival in the United States, or are forwarded in bond, a declaration of the importer or Form 3299, Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles, shall be required to support the claim of free entry. However, an oral declaration may be accepted in lieu of Form 3299, for effects of a resident which are free of duty or for personal and household effects taken abroad. The effects of returning residents, except automobiles and other vehicles of residents returning from countries other than Canada or Mexico, need not be itemized if a written declaration is required. This is pursuant to 19 CFR 148.6, 148.52, 148.53 and 148.77.

Form 3299 is also required for the return of U.S. Government civilian and military personnel from overseas and by evacuees to the United States pursuant to 19 CFR 148.74(d) who claim unaccompanied articles for free entry into the U.S.

2. Form 3299 is prepared by the individual or the broker acting as agent for the individual. In some cases, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer will prepare the form for the individual. When completed and signed, Form 3299 serves as a declaration for duty-free entry of merchandise under one of the applicable provisions of the tariff schedule. There is no similar form available which can be used or modified to accommodate the information requirements to support free entry; therefore, if CBP did not collect the information in the manner described above, free entry of the articles described could not be done.
3. The automation of Form 3299 will be accomplished in 3 phases. The first phase is allowing respondents to notify CBP electronically that a Form 3299 has been filed. This phase has already been implemented in the Electronic Data Interface (EDI). The second phase will allow the form to be submitted via facsimile and the last phase will be complete electronic submission of the form through the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), which is projected for no later than 2011. It is anticipated that complete automation of Form 3299 may happen earlier than 2011.
4. The information on the Form 3299 is unique and is, therefore, not duplicated.
5. No special consideration has been given to small businesses or entities.

6. There is no specific consequence to the Federal program or policy if the information were collected less frequently. The Form 3299 is required for the individual to claim duty free entry of personal and household goods.
7. This information collection is conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.6.
8. Public comments were solicited through Federal Register notices dated March 10, 2006 and October 3, 2006. As of this submission no comments have been received.
9. There is no offer of value for this information collection
10. No specific assurance of confidentiality is provided for this information collection.
11. There are no questions of a personal or sensitive nature.
12. Estimated Annualized Burden on the Public. The estimated burden for this information collection is 25,000. This is based on an estimated 10,000 respondents who average 15 responses for a total of 150,000 responses. Each response is estimated to require .166 hours (10 minutes).

Estimated Annualized Cost to the Public. The estimated cost to the respondents is \$660,000, based on an estimated 25,000 burden hours at a cost of \$26.40 per hour.
13. Estimated Record Keeping Burden on the Public. There is no record keeping burden associated with this collection.

Estimated Capitalization Cost Burden on the Public. There are no capitalization cost associated with this information collection.
14. The total annual cost to the Federal Government in processing Form 3299 is \$750,000. This is based on an estimated 25,000 hours expended at an average hourly rate of \$30.00.

15. There has been no increase or decrease in the estimated burden hours previously reported for this information collection.
 16. This information collection will not be published for statistical purposes.
 17. We will put the expiration date on the form when we receive a Notice of Action from OMB with the new date.
 18. CBP does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.
- B. No statistical methods were employed.**