



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 29, 2010

Mr. Alex Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) requests emergency review of a proposed revision to information collection entitled, "Commercial Encryption Items under Commerce Jurisdiction" (OMB Control No. 0694-0104).

In his remarks at the Export-Import Bank's Annual Conference on March 11, 2010, President Obama announced specific changes regarding export controls on commercial encryption items. The speech emphasized reforming the export control system for strategic, high-tech industries, which will strengthen national security, concentrate efforts on enforcing controls on the export of critical technologies, and make America safer, while enhancing the competitiveness of key American industries.

An immediate change announced by the President is to streamline the technical review process experienced by companies to get their products with encryption capabilities, such as cell phones and network storage devices, to market. This process now takes between 30 to 60 days putting these companies at a distinct disadvantage to foreign competitors who do not have these delays. The President proposed a new one-time online process to shorten the review process from 30 days to 30 minutes. BIS has been tasked to implement this new export policy on certain commercial encryption items. BIS will publish changes to the Export Administration Regulations which will replace most encryption product reviews that required a 30-day pre-export waiting period and semi-annual port-export reporting, with immediate authorization to export or reexport upon submission of an encryption registration and a self-classification report.

In order to implement the new policy expeditiously, BIS requests that OMB complete its review by May 14, 2010. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana H. Hynek".

Diana H. Hynek
Commerce Information Collections Officer