

**Supporting Statement**  
**Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on**  
**Agency Service Delivery**  
**1651-0136**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

**1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary**

Executive Order 12862 directs Federal agencies to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector. In order to work continuously to ensure that our programs are effective and meet our customers' needs, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) (hereafter "the Agency") seeks to obtain OMB approval of a generic clearance to collect qualitative feedback on our service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study.

This collection of information is necessary to enable CBP to garner customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with our commitment to improving service delivery. The information collected from our customers and stakeholders will help ensure that users have an effective, efficient, and satisfying experience with CBP's programs. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between CBP and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

**2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection**

Improving agency programs requires ongoing assessment of service delivery, by which we mean systematic review of the operation of a program compared to a set of explicit or implicit standards, as a means of contributing to the continuous improvement of the program. CBP will collect, analyze, and interpret information gathered through this generic clearance to identify strengths and weaknesses of current services and make improvements in service delivery based on feedback. The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders for CBP's services will be unavailable.

CBP will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- Information gathered will be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of CBP (if released, procedures outlined in Question 16 will be followed);
- Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions <sup>1</sup>;
- Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study ;
- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future; and
- With the exception of information needed to provide remuneration for participants of focus groups and cognitive laboratory studies, personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained.

If these conditions are not met, CBP will submit an information collection request to OMB for approval through the normal PRA process.

To obtain approval for a collection that meets the conditions of this generic clearance, a standardized form will be submitted to OMB along with supporting documentation (e.g., a copy of the comment card). The submission will have automatic approval, unless OMB identifies issues within 5 business days.

The types of collections that this generic clearance covers include, but are not limited to:

- Customer comment cards/complaint forms
- Small discussion groups
- Focus Groups of customers, potential customers, delivery partners, or other stakeholders
- Cognitive laboratory studies, such as those used to refine questions or assess usability of a website;
- Qualitative customer satisfaction surveys (e.g., post-transaction surveys; opt-out web surveys)
- In-person observation testing (e.g., website or software usability tests)

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in OMB and agency Information Quality Guidelines, “influential” means that “an agency can reasonably determine that dissemination of the information will have or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or important private sector decisions.”

CBP has established a manager/managing entity to serve for this generic clearance and will conduct an independent review of each information collection to ensure compliance with the terms of this clearance prior to submitting each collection to OMB.

### **3. Consideration Given to Information Technology**

When appropriate, CBP collects information electronically and/or use online collaboration tools to reduce burden.

### **4. Duplication of Information**

No similar data are gathered or maintained by CBP or are available from other sources known to CBP.

### **5. Reducing the Burden on Small Entities**

Small business or other small entities may be involved in these efforts but CBP will minimize the burden on them of information collections approved under this clearance by sampling, asking for readily available information, and using short, easy-to-complete information collection instruments.

### **6. Consequences of Not Conducting Collection**

Without these types of feedback, CBP will not have timely information to adjust its services to meet customer needs.

### **7. Special Circumstances**

There are no special circumstances. The information collected will be voluntary and will not be used for statistical purposes.

### **8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

Public comments were solicited through two Federal Register notices including a 60-day notice published on July 27, 2017 (Volume 82, Page 34965) on which no comments were received, and a 30-day notice published on October 16, 2017 (Volume 82, Page 48108) on which no comments have been received.

### **9. Payment or Gift**

CBP will not provide payment or other forms of remuneration to respondents of its various forms of collecting feedback. Focus groups and cognitive laboratory studies are the exceptions.

## 10. Confidentiality

If a confidentiality pledge is deemed useful and feasible, the Agency will only include a pledge of confidentiality that is supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, and that does not unnecessarily impede sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use. If the agency includes a pledge of confidentiality, it will include a citation for the statute or regulation supporting the pledge.

## 11. Sensitive Nature

No questions will be asked that are of a personal or sensitive nature.

## 12. Burden of Information Collection

A variety of instruments and platforms will be used to collect information from respondents. The annual burden hours requested (60,000) are based on the number of collections we expect to conduct over the requested period for this clearance.

Type of Collection	Total Annual Burden Hours	No. of Respondents	Responses per Respondent	Time per Response
Comment Cards	500	10,000	1	3 minutes/ .05 hours
Customer Surveys	12,500	50,000	1	15 minutes/ .25 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>		

## Public Cost

The estimated cost to the respondents is \$270,530. This is based on the estimated burden hours (13,000) multiplied by (x) the average hourly wage rate for all-purpose car travelers (\$20.81). CBP calculated this wage rate by adjusting the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) recommended hourly values of travel time savings for intercity,

all-purpose travel by surface modes (\$20.40 in 2015 U.S dollars) to 2017 U.S. dollars using DOT's recommended annual growth rate of 1.0 percent.<sup>2</sup>

### **13. Costs to Respondents**

There are no record keeping, capital, start-up or maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

### **14. Costs to Federal Government**

The estimated annual cost to the Federal Government associated with the review of these records is \$906,450. This is based on the number of responses that must be reviewed (60,000) multiplied by (x) the time burden to review and process each response (.25 hours) = 15,000 hours multiplied by (x) the average hourly loaded rate for other CBP employees (\$60.43)<sup>3</sup> = \$906,450.

### **15. Reason for Change**

There are no increases or decreases to the burden hours.

### **16. Tabulation of Results, Schedule, and Analysis Plans**

Feedback collected under this generic clearance provides useful information, but it does not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. Findings will be used for general service improvement, but are not for publication or other public release.

Although CBP does not intend to publish its findings, CBP may receive requests to release the information (e.g., congressional inquiry, Freedom of Information Act requests). CBP will disseminate the findings when appropriate, and will include specific discussion of the limitation of the qualitative results discussed above.

### **17. Display of OMB Approval Date**

We are requesting no exemption.

### **18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions**

These activities comply with the requirements in 5 CFR 1320.9.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Policy. *The Value of Travel Time Savings: Departmental Guidance for Conducting Economic Evaluations Revision 2 (2015 Update)*, "Table 4 (Revision 2-corrected): Recommended Hourly Values of Travel Time Savings for Intercity, All-Purpose Travel by Surface Modes (Except High-Speed Rail)." April 29, 2015. Available at <http://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/Revised%20Departmental%20Guidance%20on%20Valuation%20of%20Travel%20Time%20in%20Economic%20Analysis.pdf>. Accessed June 20, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> CBP bases this wage on the FY 2017 salary and benefits of the national average of other CBP positions, which is equal to a GS-12, Step 7. Source: Email correspondence with CBP's Office of Finance on June 14, 2017.