

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT INFORMATION COLLECTION
SUBMISSION FOR FORM F-3

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary

The Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”) was enacted in order to provide full and fair disclosure with respect to publicly offered securities and to prevent fraud in connection with such offerings. The Securities Act carries out this purpose by requiring the filing of a registration statement in connection with public distributions of securities by issuers and their control persons. Schedule A of the Securities Act specifies the general types of information that must be disclosed in registration statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”). The Commission has authority, under Section 19 of the Securities Act, to promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of the Securities Act.

Form F-3 can be used by any foreign private issuer as defined in Rule 405 that meets the form’s specified registrant requirements and transaction requirements to register securities under the Securities Act of 1933. Also, majority-owned subsidiaries that meet the form’s requirements may use Form F-3 to register securities under the Securities Act of 1933.

2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection

The information collected is intended to ensure the adequacy of information available to investors in connection with securities offerings.

3. Consideration Given to Information Technology

Form F-3 is filed electronically using the Commission’s Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval (EDGAR) system.

4. Duplication of Information

There is no alternative source of such investor-oriented information in this country or provided in English by foreign issuers. In most cases, the disclosure documents of foreign issuers required by foreign law are not directly comparable to the disclosure documents of U.S. companies. By requiring foreign companies to report substantially the same information as U.S. companies, investors have access to information that is essential in making informed investment decisions.

5. Reducing the Burden on Small Entities

Small entities would be required to file Form F-3 provided they meet the necessary eligibility requirements. Investors in small entities should have access to all material information in order to evaluate a proposed offering of securities. The Commission is unable to further simplify reporting requirements for small entities.

6. Consequences of Not Conducting Collection

The objectives of the Securities Act would not be met.

7. Special Circumstances

Not applicable.

8. Consultations with Persons Outside the Agency

Form F-3 was proposed for public comment. No comments were received during the 60-day comment period prior to OMB's review of this submission.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not applicable.

10. Confidentiality

Form F-3 is a public document.

11. Sensitive Questions

No information of a sensitive nature, including social security numbers, will be required under this collection of information. The information collection collects basic Personally Identifiable Information (PII) that may include a name and job title. However, the agency has determined that the information collection does not constitute a system of record for purposes of the Privacy Act. Information is not retrieved by a personal identifier. In accordance with Section 208 of the E-Government Act of 2002, the agency has conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) of the EDGAR system, in connection with this collection of information. The EDGAR PIA, published on January 29, 2016, is provided as a supplemental document and is also available at <https://www.sec.gov/privacy>.

12. Estimate of Respondent Reporting Burden

For purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act (“PRA”), we estimate that Form F-3 takes approximately 167 hours per response to comply with the collection of information requirements and is filed by 112 respondents. We derived our burden hour estimates by estimating the average number of hours it would take an issuer to compile the necessary information and data, prepare and review disclosure, file documents and retain records. In connection with rule amendments to the form, we occasionally receive PRA estimates from public commenters about incremental burdens that are used in our burden estimates. We believe that the actual burdens will likely vary among individual issuers based on the nature of their operations. We further estimate that 25% of the collection of information burden is carried by the foreign private issuer internally and that 75% of the burden of preparation is carried by outside professionals retained by the foreign private issuer. Based on our estimates, we calculated the total reporting burden to be 4,676 hours ((25% x 167 hours per response) x 112 responses). For administrative convenience, the presentation of the totals related to the paperwork burden hours have been rounded to the nearest whole number and the cost totals have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

13. Estimate of Total Annualized Cost Burden

We estimate that 75% of the 167 hours per response (125.25 hours) is prepared by an outside law firm hired by the company. We estimate that it will cost \$400 per hour (\$400 x 125.25 hours per response x 112 responses) for a total cost burden of \$5,611,200. We estimate an hourly cost of \$400 for outside legal and accounting services used in connection with public company reporting. This estimate is based on our consultations with registrants and professional firms who regularly assist registrants in preparing and filing disclosure documents with the Commission. Our estimates reflect average burdens, and therefore, some companies may experience costs in excess of our estimates and some companies may experience costs that are lower than our estimates. For administrative convenience, the presentation of the totals related to the paperwork burden hours have been rounded to the nearest whole number and the cost totals have been rounded to the nearest dollar. The cost estimate is made solely for the purpose of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

14. Costs to Federal Government

The estimated cost is approximately \$60,000.

15. Reason for Change in Burden

The increase of 209 burden hours and increase of \$250,500 in cost burden is due to an increase in the number of Form F-3s filed with the Commission.

16. Information Collection Planned for Statistical Purposes

Not applicable.

17. Approval to Omit OMB Expiration Date

We request authorization to omit the expiration date on the electronic version of the form. Including the expiration date on the electronic version of the form will result in increased costs, because the need to make changes to the form may not follow the application's scheduled version release dates. The OMB control number will be displayed.

18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

Not applicable.

B. STATISTICAL METHODS

Not applicable.