

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with Federal regulations and statutes, when protests are filed, the contracting officer will require information/documentation such as detailed statements of legal and factual grounds for the protests, copies of relevant documents, solicitation or contract number, and requests for a ruling by the agency. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and 48 CFR chapter 1 provide general procedures on handling protests submitted by contractors to Federal agencies. FAR part 33, Protests, Disputes and Appeals, prescribes policies and procedures for filing protests and for processing contract disputes and appeals. While the FAR prescribes the procedures to be followed for protests to the agency, it allows agencies to determine the method of receipt. DHS will utilize electronic mediums (email or facsimile) for collection of information and will not prescribe a format or require more information than what is already required in the FAR. If DHS determines there is a need to collect additional information outside of what is required in the FAR, DHS will submit a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. The prior information collection request for OMB No. 1600-0004 was approved through November 30, 2024, by OMB in a Notice of OMB Action. This justification supports a request for an extension of the approval.

The information being collected will be obtained from contractors as part of their submissions whenever they file a bid protest with DHS. The information will be used by DHS officials in deciding how the protest should be resolved. Failure to collect this information would result in delayed resolution of protests. Agency protest information is contained in each individual solicitation document, and provides the specified contracting officer's name, email, and mailing address that the contractors would use to submit its response. The FAR does not specify the format in which the contractor should submit protest information. However, most contractors use computers to prepare protest materials and submit time sensitive responses electronically (email or facsimile) to the specified Government point of contact. Since the responses must meet specific timeframes, a centralized mailbox or website would not be a practical method of submission. Submission of protest information through contracting officers' email or through facsimile are the best methods

to use to document receipt of protest information, and are the methods most commonly used in the Government protest process. This information collection may involve small business contractors, depending on the particular transaction. The burden applied to small businesses is minimal and consistent with the goals of achieving timely resolution of agency protests. This information is collected only when contractors choose to file a protest to the agency. The information is requested from contractors so that the Government will be able to evaluate protests effectively and provide prompt resolution of issues in dispute when contractors file such claims.

DHS/ALL/PIA-006 General Contact Lists covers the basic contact information that must be collected for DHS to address these protests. The other information collected will typically pertain to the contract itself, and not individuals. However, all information for this information collection is submitted voluntarily. Technically, because this information is not retrieved by personal identifier, no SORN is required. However, DHS/ALL-021 DHS Contractors and Consultants provides coverage for the collection of records on DHS contractors and consultants, to include resume and qualifying employment information. There is no assurance of confidentiality provided to the respondents.

The burden estimates provided in response to Item 12 above are based upon the Department's findings in its FY 2022 Procurement Line of Business, Operational Status Report. No program changes have occurred or changes to the information being collected, however, the burden was adjusted to reflect an agency adjustment increase of 33 respondents within DHS for fiscal year 2022, as well as an increase in the average hourly wage rate.

#### Analysis

*Agency:* Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

*Title:* Various Homeland Security Acquisitions Regulations Forms.

*OMB Number:* 1600-0002.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Contractor.

*Number of Respondents:* 21,379.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 1 hour.

*Total Burden Hours:* 21,379.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$1,685,903.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):*

**Robert Dorr,**

*Executive Director, Business Management Directorate.*

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**BILLING CODE 9112-FL-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. CISA-2024-0023]

### Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection for Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI)

**AGENCY:** Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** 60-Day notice and request for comments; renewal of Information Collection Request (ICR): 1670-0015.

**SUMMARY:** The Infrastructure Security Division (ISD) within the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) will submit the following Information Collection Request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The submission proposes to renew the information collection for an additional three years and to update both the burden estimates and the statutory authority for the information collection.

**DATES:** Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until November 12, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments, identified by docket number through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for sending comments.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name "CISA" and docket number CISA-2024-0023. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Comments that include trade secrets, confidential commercial or financial information, Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI),<sup>1</sup> Sensitive Security Information (SSI),<sup>2</sup> or Protected Critical Infrastructure

<sup>1</sup> For more information about CVI see 6 CFR 27.400 and the CVI Procedural Manual at [www.dhs.gov/publication/safeguarding-cvi-manual](http://www.dhs.gov/publication/safeguarding-cvi-manual).

<sup>2</sup> For more information about SSI see 49 CFR part 1520 and the SSI Program web page at [www.tsa.gov/for-industry/sensitive-security-information](http://www.tsa.gov/for-industry/sensitive-security-information).

Information (PCII)<sup>3</sup> should not be submitted to the public docket. Comments containing trade secrets, confidential commercial or financial information, CVI, SSI, or PCII should be appropriately marked and packaged in accordance with applicable requirements and submission must be coordinated with the point of contact for this notice provided in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Comments must be identified by docket number CISA–2024–0023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Annie Hunziker Boyer, 703–603–5000, [CISARegulations@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:CISARegulations@cisa.dhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program identified and regulated the security of high-risk chemical facilities using a risk-based approach. Pursuant to section 5 of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113–254, as amended by Pub. L. 116–150; 6 U.S.C. 621 note), authorization had been granted for CFATS until July 27, 2023. Congress did not act to reauthorize the program in time and, as such, the authorization expired on July 28, 2023. Therefore, regulations written pursuant to CFATS authority are not currently active. While regulatory text for the CFATS regulation, including information protection requirements, is located in part 27 of title 6 of the Code of Federal

Regulations (CFR), the text is inactive due to the lapse in authority.

CISA continues to possess and safeguard the information provided to CISA under the CFATS program prior to the program’s lapse in authority on July 28, 2023. CISA also continues to receive requests for these government records and has continued to treat any information previously designated as CVI prior to the July 28, 2023 lapse consistent with the previously established CVI information handling protection regime. As a result, prior to granting access to information safeguarded as CVI, CISA verifies that the requestor is a CVI Authorized User. If that requestor has a need to know but is not a CVI Authorized User, CISA will provide the requestor with CVI training. The requestor then submits an application to become a CVI Authorized User.

CISA is authorized to safeguard information provided to CISA under CFATS prior to July 28, 2023 under 6 U.S.C. 652(e)(1)(J), which grants CISA the authority to safeguard information from unauthorized disclosure and to ensure that the information is handled and used only for the performance of official duties.<sup>4</sup>

It is the Administration’s position that CFATS should be reauthorized. However, even without statutory reauthorization, there is both a reason to continue collecting this information (*i.e.*, enabling individuals with a need to know but who are not CVI Authorized

Users to access historical government records safeguarded as CVI) as well as existing statutory authority to do so under 6 U.S.C. 652(e)(1)(J). Once CFATS is reauthorized, the training and application to become a CVI Authorized User will be made accessible to the public.

The current information collection for the CVI program (IC 1670–0015) will expire on November 30, 2024.<sup>5</sup>

CISA proposes three revisions from the previously approved collection. Specifically, to renew the information collection for an additional three years, increase the loaded average hourly wage rate of respondents from \$79.75 to \$101.87 based on updated BLS wage and compensation data, and to cite 6 U.S.C. 652(e)(1)(J) as its statutory authority rather than 6 U.S.C. 623.

This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8.

**CISA’S Methodology in Estimating the Burden for the Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information Authorization**

*Number of Respondents*

The current information collection estimated that 20,000 respondents submit a request to become a CVI Authorized User Number annually. The table below provides the number of respondents over the past three years (*i.e.*, Calendar Year (CY) 2020 through CY 2022).

	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
Number of Respondents .....	11,444	12,931	14,252

Due to past fluctuations and uncertainty regarding the number of future respondents, CISA believes that 20,000 continues to be a reasonable estimate when CFATS is reauthorized. Therefore, CISA proposes to retain the estimated annual number of respondents.<sup>6</sup>

*Estimated Time per Respondent*

In the current information collection, the estimated time per respondent to prepare and submit a CVI Authorization is 0.50 hours (30 minutes). CISA proposes to retain the estimated time per respondent.

<sup>3</sup> For more information about PCII see 6 CFR part 29 and the PCII Program web page at [www.dhs.gov/pcii-program](http://www.dhs.gov/pcii-program).

<sup>4</sup> 6 U.S.C. 652(e)(1)(J): (J) To ensure that any material received pursuant to this chapter is protected from unauthorized disclosure and handled and used only for the performance of official duties.

*Annual Burden Hours*

The annual burden hours for the CVI Authorization is [0.50 hours × 20,000 respondents × 1 response per respondent], which equals 10,000 hours.

*Total Capital/Startup Burden Cost*

Prior to the expiration of CFATS’ statutory authorization, the instrument through which the information was collected electronically was a web interface incorporated into CISA’s Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT). Since the lapse, and until reauthorization, the instrument is a PDF form sent via email to respondents. The

<sup>5</sup> The current information collection for CVI (*i.e.*, IC 1670–0015) may be viewed at [https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref\\_nbr=202012-1670-001](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=202012-1670-001).

<sup>6</sup> If the CFATS program is not reauthorized, renewal of this IC under the authority of 6 U.S.C. 652(e)(1)(J) for the more limited purpose of issuing CVI Authorized User Numbers and allowing

PDF form is filled out by respondents and returned to CISA via email. When the CFATS program is reauthorized, a web-enabled interface will be made accessible to the public.

Thus, for the purposes of this notice, CISA continues to assume there is no annualized capital or start-up costs incurred by respondents for this information collection.

*Total Recordkeeping Burden*

There are no recordkeeping burden costs incurred by respondents for this information collection.

Individuals to become CVI Authorized Users would reduce the estimated number of respondents to 150. It is CISA’s position that CFATS will be reauthorized. Therefore, CISA proposes to retain the estimate of 20,000 respondents.

*Total Annual Burden Cost*

CISA assumes that respondents are generally Site Security Officers (SSOs), although other types of respondents may also complete this instrument (e.g., State, and local government employees and contractors). For the purpose of this notice, CISA maintains this assumption. To estimate the total annual burden, CISA multiplied the annual burden of 10,000 hours by the loaded average hourly wage rate of SSOs of \$101.87 per hour.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, the total annual burden cost for the CVI Authorization instrument is \$1,018,700 [10,000 total annual burden hours × \$101.87 per hour].

**Analysis**

*Agency:* Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, Infrastructure Security Division.

*Title:* CFATS Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information.

*OMB Number:* 1670–0015.

*Instrument:* Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information Training and Authorized User Application.

*Frequency:* “On occasion” and “Other”.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 20,000 respondents (rounded estimate).

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 0.50 hours.

*Total Burden Hours:* 10,000 annual burden hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$0.

*Total Recordkeeping Burden:* \$0.

*Total Burden Cost:* \$1,001,275.

**Robert J. Costello,**

*Chief Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.*

[FR Doc. 2024–20828 Filed 9–12–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9111–LF–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS–R4–ES–2024–N046;  
FXES11140400000–245–FF04E00000]

**Endangered Species; Recovery Permit Applications**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received applications for permits to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

**DATES:** We must receive written data or comments on the applications by October 15, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Reviewing Documents:* Submit requests for copies of applications and other information submitted with the applications to Karen Marlowe (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All requests and comments should specify the applicant’s name and application number (e.g., Mary Smith, ESPER0001234).

*Submitting Comments:* If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Email (preferred method):*

*permitsR4ES@fws.gov.* Please include your name and return address in your email message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we have received your email message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

- *U.S. mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Ecological Services, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30345 (Attn: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator, via telephone at 404–679–7097 or via email at *karen\_marlowe@fws.gov*. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered

within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite review and comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies on applications we have received for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and our regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17. Documents and other information submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

**Background**

With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits take of listed species unless a federal permit is issued that authorizes such take. The definition of “take” in the ESA includes hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing, and also such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to take endangered or threatened species while engaging in activities that are conducted for scientific purposes that promote recovery of species or for enhancement of propagation or survival of species. These activities often include the capture and collection of species, which would result in prohibited take if a permit were not issued. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

**Permit Applications Available for Review and Comment**

The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits. Accordingly, we invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies, and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to these applications. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies. Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild.

<sup>7</sup> The wage used for an SSO equals that of Managers, All (11–9199), with a load factor of 1.4481 to account for benefits in addition to wages <https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes119199.htm>. The load factor is estimated by dividing total compensation by total wages and salaries for the Management, Professional and Related series (\$72/\$49.72), which can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/eccec.t04.htm>.