

agency organization, it is not required to be submitted to the Congress and the General Accounting Officer under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996; however, it is anticipated that having additional authentication officers will expedite the processing of authentication requests by small entities.

List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 131

Seals and insignia.

Accordingly, under the authority of 5 USC 301 and 553 and 22 USC 2651a, § 131.1 is revised to read as follows:

The Authentication Officer, Acting Authentication Officer, or any Assistant Authentication Officer designated by either of the former officers may, and is hereby authorized to, sign and issue certificates of authentication under the seal of the Department of State for and in the name of the Secretary of State or the Acting Secretary of State. The form of authentication shall be as follows:

In testimony whereof, I, _____, Secretary of State have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Authentication Officer, Acting Authentication Officer, or an Assistant Authentication Officer, of the said Department, at _____ in _____, this _____ day of _____ 19_____

(Secretary of State)

By _____ Authentication Officer, Department of State) (22 U.S.C. 2651a)

Dated: July 12, 1996.

Patrick F. Kennedy, Assistant Secretary for Administration. [FR Doc. 96-18988 Filed 7-29-96; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

22 CFR Part 514

Exchange Visitor Program

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: To facilitate use of the short-term scholar category for the purpose of participation in the Exchange Visitor Program, the Agency is extending the permitted period of program participation as a short-term scholar from four months to six months.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule is effective July 30, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stanley S. Colvin, Assistant General Counsel, United States Information

Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547; Telephone, (202) 619-4979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 10, 1996 the Agency adopted a final rule governing eligibility for Exchange Visitor Program participation as a professor or research scholar. This final rule, which amended § 514.20 of the Exchange Visitor Program regulations, limits program participation as a professor or research scholar to nonimmigrant aliens who have not been physically present in the United States, in J visa status, for all or part of the twelve month period preceding their entry into the United States as a professor or research scholar participant.

An exception to this rule was provided to nonimmigrant aliens present in the United States for less than six months or whose presence in the United States was pursuant to program participation as a short-term scholar. Accordingly, both to facilitate use of the short-term scholar category and to conform the period of program duration of the short-term scholar category to the exception permitted by § 514.20(d), the Agency hereby extends the period of program duration for this category from four months to six months.

List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 514

Cultural exchange programs.

Dated: July 24, 1996.

Les Jin, General Counsel.

Accordingly, 22 CFR part 514 is amended as follows:

PART 514—EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

1. The authority citation for part 514 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(J), 1182, 1258; 22 U.S.C. 1431-1442, 2451-2460; Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1977, 42 FR 62461, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp. p. 200; E.O. 12048, 43 FR 13361, 3 CFR 1978 Comp. p. 168; USIA Delegation Order No. 85-5 (50 FR 27393.)

2. Section 514.21 is amended by revising paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 514.21 Short-term scholars.

* * * * *

(g) Duration of participation. The short-term scholar shall be authorized to participate in the Exchange Visitor Program for the length of time necessary to complete the program, which time shall not exceed six months. Programs under this section are exempted from § 514.8(b) governing the minimum duration of a program. Extensions

beyond the duration of participation are not permitted under this category.

[FR Doc. 96-19271 Filed 7-29-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Part 1

[Docket No. 960417113-6186-02]

RIN 0651-AA82

Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 1997

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of final rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) is amending the rules of practice in patent cases to adjust certain patent fee amounts to reflect fluctuations in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and to recover costs of operation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Harris by telephone at (703) 305-8510, fax at (703) 305-8525, e-mail at rharris@uspto.gov, or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Crystal Park 1, Suite 1107, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule change is designed to adjust PTO fees in accordance with the applicable provisions of title 35, United States Code; and section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (as amended by section 8001 of Public Law 103-66), all as amended by the Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-204).

Background

Statutory Provisions

Patent fees are authorized by 35 U.S.C. 41 and 35 U.S.C. 376, A fifty percent reduction in the fees paid under 35 U.S.C. 41(a) and (b) by independent inventors, small business concerns, and nonprofit organizations who meet prescribed definitions is required by 35 U.S.C. 41(h).

Subsection 41(f) of title 35, United States Code, provides that fees established under 35 U.S.C. 41(a) and (b) may be adjusted on October 1, 1992, and every year thereafter, to reflect fluctuations in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the previous 12 months.

Section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (amended by