

United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

# WS Directive

4.415 10/07/05

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INVENTIONS AND PATENTS

1. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for reporting employee inventions and patents that are in the public's interest.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces ADC Directive 4.415, dated 3/26/93.

3. POLICY

Employees can receive letters of commendation and/or cash awards for government-patented inventions. In addition, government employees can, in certain situations, benefit from royalties realized from their inventions.

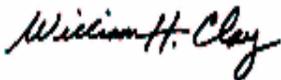
4. REPORTING INVENTIONS AND PATENTS

Employees should, through their Director's or Regional office, contact the Director of the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) regarding the current procedures for reviewing and processing work-related invention and patent applications.

Furthermore, to protect the Government's intellectual property, employees must consult with the Director of the NWRC prior to entering into cooperative research partnerships with universities or private sector entities.

5. REFERENCES

Bayh-Dole Act, 1980.  
Federal Technology Transfer Act, 1986.  
National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113).  
Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, as amended (15 U.S.C. 3710c).  
Technology Transfer Commercialization Act, 2000.  
USDA Guide for Employee Recognition  
(<http://www.usda.gov/da/employ/recog.htm#PRINCIPLES>).



Deputy Administrator