

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction, commonly called the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), is an international arms control treaty that establishes the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to implement the verification provisions of the treaty. The CWC imposes a number of obligations on countries that have ratified the Convention (States Parties), including enactment of legislation to prohibit the production, storage, and use of chemical weapons, and establishment of a National Authority for liaison with the OPCW and other States Parties. The CWC also requires States Parties to implement a comprehensive data declaration and inspection regime to provide transparency and to verify that both the public and private sectors of States Parties are not engaged in activities prohibited under the CWC.

Schedule 1" chemicals are those toxic chemicals and precursors identified in the Convention as posing a high risk to the object and purpose of the Convention. The "Schedule 1" chemicals are set forth in the Convention's "Annex on Chemicals," as well as in Supplement No. 1 to part 712 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Regulations (15 CFR 712).

The "Schedule 1" provisions of the Convention that affect commercial activities are implemented through part 712 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Regulations and parts 742 and 745 of the Export Administration Regulations, both administered by the Bureau of Industry and Security. These regulations:

- (1) Prohibit the import of "Schedule 1" chemicals from States not Party to the Convention (15 CFR 712.2(b));
- (2) Require annual declarations by certain facilities engaged in the production of "Schedule 1" chemicals in excess of 100 grams aggregate per calendar year (*i.e.*, declared "Schedule 1" facilities) for purposes not prohibited by the Convention (15 CFR 712.5);
- (3) Require government approval of "declared Schedule 1" facilities (15 CFR 712.5(e));
- (4) Provide that "declared Schedule 1" facilities are subject to initial and routine inspection by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (15 CFR 712.5(d));
- (5) Require 200 days advance notification of establishment of new "Schedule 1" production facilities producing greater than 100 grams aggregate of "Schedule 1" chemicals per calendar year (15 CFR 712.4);

(6) Require advance notification and annual reporting of all imports and exports of "Schedule 1" chemicals to, or from, other States Parties to the Convention (15 CFR 712.6, 742.18 and 745); and

(7) Prohibit the export of "Schedule 1" chemicals to States not Party to the Convention (15 CFR 742.18 and 745.2).

Discussion and Request for Comments

In order to assist in determining whether the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms in the United States are being significantly harmed by the limitations of the Convention on access to, and production of, "Schedule 1" chemicals, BIS is seeking public comments on any effects that implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention has had on commercial activities involving "Schedule 1" chemicals through calendar year 2004.

Submission of Comments

All comments must be submitted to the address indicated in this notice. The Department requires that all comments be submitted in written form.

The Department encourages interested persons who wish to comment to do so at the earliest possible time. The period for submission of comments will close on December 21, 2004. The Department will consider all comments received before the close of the comment period. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be considered if possible, but their consideration cannot be assured. The Department will not accept comments accompanied by a request that a part or all of the material be treated confidentially because of its business proprietary nature or for any other reason. The Department will return such comments and materials to the persons submitting the comments and will not consider them. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be a matter of public record and will be available for public inspection and copying.

The Office of Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, displays public comments on the BIS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Web site at <http://www.bis.doc.gov/foia>. This office does not maintain a separate public inspection facility. If you have technical difficulties accessing this web site, please call BIS's Office of Administration, at (202) 482-2165, for assistance.

Dated: November 18, 2004.

Peter Lichtenbaum,

Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-25950 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 041103306-4306-01]

RIN 0693-AB54

Announcing Draft of Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 201, Personal Identification Verification for Federal Employees and Contractors

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces Draft Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 201, Personal Identification Verification for Federal Employees and Contractors, for public review and comment. The draft of FIPS 201 is being proposed in response to tasking to the Secretary of Commerce by the President to promulgate, in accordance with applicable law, a Federal standard for secure and reliable forms of identification for Federal employees. The standard specifies the minimum necessary technical and operational requirements for such Federal identification credentials. Prior to the submission of this proposed standard to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval, it is essential that consideration be given to the needs and views of the public, users, the information technology industry, and Federal, State and local government organizations. The purpose of this notice is to solicit such views.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to: Chief, Computer Security Division, Information Technology Laboratory, Attention: Comments on Draft FIPS 201, 100 Bureau Drive—Stop 8930, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8930. Electronic comments may also be sent to: DRAFTFIPS201@nist.gov. The draft of the standard is available via <http://csrc.nist.gov/piv-project/index.html>. Comments received in response to this notice will be published electronically at <http://csrc.nist.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Barker, Computer Security Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8930, telephone (301) 975-8443, e-mail: william.barker@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 27, 2004, the President signed Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) Number 12 that directed the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate a Federal Standard by February 27, 2005, that assures secure and reliable forms of identification of Federal and Federal contractor employees. In response, the NIST Computer Security Division has initiated development of this standard. The principal requirements of HSPD Number 12 are to create a secure and reliable automated system that may be used Government-wide to: (1) Establish the authentic true identity of an individual; (2) issue an identity credential token to each authenticated individual containing an "electronic representation" of the identity and the person to whom it is issued which can later be verified using appropriate technical means when access to a secure Federal facility or information system is requested; (3) provide graduated criteria that provide appropriate levels of assurance and security to the application; (4) be strongly resistant to identity fraud, counterfeiting, and exploitation by individuals, terrorist organizations, or conspiracy groups; (5) initiate development and use of interoperable automated systems meeting these requirements.

To meet these requirements, the draft FIPS proposes (1) a credential issuance process that relies upon identity documentation supplemented by record checking; (2) specifications for storage of biometric information on the identity credential; (3) use of existing graduated criteria for employee position sensitivity and physical/logical access levels; (4) security controls to counter fraud and exploitation; and (5) information to facilitate agency establishment of real-time credential validity checking and integration of the new credential into physical and logical access systems.

Under the requirements of HSPD Number 12, the standard must be promulgated by February 27, 2005. NIST anticipates that the initial standard will be augmented over the course of two to three years as additional supporting technical guidelines, recommendations, reference implementations, and conformance tests are developed.

Authority: NIST's activities to develop computer security standards to protect

Federal non-national security systems is undertaken pursuant to specific responsibilities assigned to NIST in the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. In addition, development of FIPS 201 is being undertaken in response to Homeland Security Presidential Directive Number 12.

Dated: November 18, 2004.

Richard F. Kayser,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 04-25953 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-CN-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Tuesday, December 7, 2004, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology is composed of fifteen members appointed by the Director of NIST; who are eminent in such fields as business, research, new product development, engineering, labor, education, management consulting, environment, and international relations. The purpose of this meeting is to review and make recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute, its organization, its budget, and its programs within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The agenda will include an update on NIST's activities; a preview of a new NIST overview; a VCAT member's presentation on managing organizations with remote sites; an update on outreach strategy; an update on the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program; and updates from the Fall Senior Management Board Strategy Retreat. Two laboratory tours are scheduled. Discussions scheduled to begin at 8:15 a.m. and to end at 9 a.m. on December 7, on the NIST budget and planning information will be closed. Agenda may change to accommodate Committee business. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST Web site. All visitors to the National Institute of Standards and Technology site will

have to pre-register to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, e-mail address and phone number to Carolyn Peters no later than Thursday, December 2, 2004, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Mrs. Peter's e-mail address is carolyn.peters@nist.gov and her phone number is (301) 975-5607.

DATES: The meeting will convene on December 7 at 8:15 a.m. and will adjourn at 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Employees Lounge, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Please note admittance instructions under **SUMMARY** paragraph.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn J. Peters, Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-1000, telephone number (301) 975-5607.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on December 24, 2003, that portions of the meeting of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology which deal with discussion of sensitive budget and planning information that would cause harm to third parties if publicly shared be closed in accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2.

Dated: November 18, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 04-25952 Filed 11-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111804B]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Reauthorization Committee; its Ecosystem Committee; and its Executive Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 through