

U.S.C. App. § 10(d) and vested in me by Treasury Department Order No. 101-05, that the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with information that is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(9)(A). The public interest requires that such meetings be closed to the public because the Treasury Department requires frank and full advice from representatives of the financial community prior to making its final decision on major financing operations. Historically, this advice has been offered by debt management advisory committees established by the several major segments of the financial community. When so utilized, such a committee is recognized to be an advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. § 3.

Although the Treasury's final announcement of financing plans may not reflect the recommendations provided in reports of the advisory committee, premature disclosure of the committee's deliberations and reports would be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in the securities market. Thus, these meetings fall within the exemption covered by 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c)(9)(A).

The Office of the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance is responsible for maintaining records of debt management advisory committee meetings and for providing annual reports setting forth a summary of committee activities and such other matters as may be informative to the public consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. § 552b.

Dated: December 26, 1995.

John D. Hawke, Jr.,

*Under Secretary, Domestic Finance.*

[FR Doc. 96-189 Filed 1-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-M

## Customs Service

### Paperless Notification Concerning the Recordation of Intellectual Property Rights Information

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Branch of Customs will no longer notify Customs officers and the public of trademark and copyright recordations through the issuance of paper circulars or directives, but rather that all such future notifications will be accomplished by means of the IPR module developed for the Automated Commercial System (ACS). Customs will furnish a print screen of the first page of IPR module text and a video image to interested members of the public upon request.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John F. Atwood, Chief, Intellectual Property Rights Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, (202) 482-6960.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Prior to creating the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Task Force and IPR Branch, the principal vehicle for notifying Customs officers and the public of trademark and copyright recordations was through the issuance of paper "circulars" or "directives". During 1989-1990, an IPR module was developed for the Automated Commercial System (ACS) and the basic information and images on all outstanding recordations transferred to that program, along with the addition of all new recordations. Currently, that database is approaching 20,000 and more than 1,500 new recordations are added each year.

A comparative analysis of the existing paper recordation notification system with the paperless ACS/IPR module indicates that substantial monetary savings and increased efficiency will result by eliminating the paper system. Because of the ongoing conversion to Local Area Networks (LANs), Customs officers now have the ability to call up both the text and images (in the case of word trademarks, an image may not be entered into the system). Accordingly,

as of January 1, 1996, the IPR Branch in the Office of Regulations & Rulings will no longer issue paper circulars and directives concerning trademark and copyright recordations; the ACS/IPR module will become the sole tool for basic consultation on those matters.

As to the public availability of recordations, use of the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board (CEBB) ("Help" number (703) 440-6236) is encouraged. Text on the CEBB identifies the recorded trademark or copyright, its owner, a contact person, and whether the trademark or copyright receives so-called "gray market" import restriction. On a monthly basis, beginning with the July 17, 1991, edition, the *Customs Bulletin* has published a brief reference of all trademark and copyright recordations (including all those recorded prior to July 17, 1991). Upon request, Customs officers will furnish a print screen of the first page of IPR module text for a trademark or copyright with any references to licensees in recordations prior to January 1, 1996, deleted. Beginning on January 1, 1996, recordation texts will not include licensee information on the first page (not all recordations show licensees).

Since video images are not currently available through the CEBB, Customs officers will provide a relevant image upon request from the public.

In addition to financial savings, by narrowing the administration of trademark and copyright recordations to the one automated system, this will permit the IPR Branch to concentrate on improving and refining the ACS/IPR module. Substantive questions about disclosure and IPR recordations should be directed to the IPR Branch at (202) 482-6960.

Dated: January 2, 1996.

Michael H. Lane,

*Acting Commissioner of Customs.*

[FR Doc. 96-204 Filed 1-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P