

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060–1042; FR ID 266288]

Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before February 4, 2025. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Cathy Williams, FCC, via email to PRA@fcc.gov and to Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418–2918.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:*OMB Control No.:* 3060–1042.*Title:* Request for Technical Support—Help Request Form.*Form No.:* N/A—Electronic only.*Type of Review:* Extension of currently approved collection.*Respondents:* Individuals or household; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; and state, local or tribal government.*Number of Respondents and Responses:* 36,300 respondents and 36,300 responses.*Estimated Time per Response:* 0.14 hours.*Frequency of Response:* On occasion reporting requirement and recordkeeping requirement.*Obligation to Respond:* Required to obtain or retain benefits. There is no statutory authority for this information collection. The Commission developed this information collection on its own motion to assist users of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) or other FCC electronic systems.*Total Annual Burden:* 5,082 hours.*Total Annual Cost:* \$609,840.*Needs and Uses:* The FCC maintains internet software used by the public to apply for licenses, participate in auctions for spectrum, and maintain license information. In this mission, FCC has a 'help desk' that answers questions related to these systems as well as resetting and/or issuing user passwords for access to these systems.

The form currently is available on the website <https://esupport.fcc.gov/request.htm> under OMB Control Number 3060–1042. This form will continue to substantially decrease public and staff burden since all the information needed to facilitate a support request will be submitted in a standard format but be available to a wider audience. This eliminates or at least minimizes the need to follow-up with the customers to obtain all the information necessary to respond to their request. This form also helps presort requests into previously defined categories to all staff to respond more quickly.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024–28704 Filed 12–5–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

[OMB 3060–1207; FR ID 266289]

Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission Under Delegated Authority**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before February 4, 2025. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Cathy Williams, FCC, via email to PRA@fcc.gov and to Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418–2918.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:*OMB Control Number:* 3060–1207.*Title:* Sections 25.701, Other DBS Public Interest Obligations, and 25.702, Other SDARS Public Interest Obligations.*Form Number:* None.*Type of Review:* Extension of an existing collection.*Respondents:* Business or other for profit entities.*Number of Respondents and Responses:* 3 respondents and 3 responses.

Estimated Hours per Response: 18 hrs.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement, Recordkeeping requirement, Third party disclosure requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 54 hours.

Total Annual Cost: \$592.

Obligation to Respond: Required to be obtained or retained for benefits. The statutory authority for this information collection is contained in sections 154, 301, 302, 303, 307, 309, 319, 332, 605, and 721 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Needs and Uses: In 2012, the Commission replaced the decades-old requirement that commercial and noncommercial television stations maintain public files at their main studios with a requirement to post most of the documents in those files to a central, online public file hosted by the Commission. On January 28, 2016, the Commission adopted a Report and Order (“R&O”) in MB Docket No. 14–127, FCC 16–4, In the Matter of Expansion of Online Public File Obligations to Cable and Satellite TV Operators and Broadcast and Satellite Radio Licensees, expanding the requirement that public inspection files be posted to the FCC-hosted online public file database to satellite TV (also referred to as “Direct Broadcast Satellite” or “DBS”) providers and to satellite radio (also referred to as “satellite Digital Audio Radio Services” or “SDARS”) licensees, among other entities. The Commission stated that its goal is to make information that these entities are already required to make publicly available more accessible while also reducing costs both for the government and the public sector. The Commission took the same general approach to transitioning these entities to the online file that it took with television broadcasters in 2012, tailoring the requirements as necessary to the different services. The Commission also took similar measures to minimize the effort and cost entities must undertake to move their public files online. Specifically, the Commission required entities to upload to the online public file only documents that are not already on file with the Commission or that the Commission maintains in its own database. The Commission also exempted existing political file material from the online file requirement and required that political file documents be uploaded only on a going-forward basis.

The Commission first adopted a public inspection file requirement for broadcasters more than 40 years ago. The public file requirement grew out of Congress’ 1960 amendment of Sections

309 and 311 of the Communications Act of 1934. Finding that Congress, in enacting these provisions, was guarding “the right of the general public to be informed, not merely the rights of those who have special interests,” the Commission adopted the public inspection file requirement to “make information to which the public already has a right more readily available, so that the public will be encouraged to play a more active part in dialogue with broadcast licensees.” The information provided in the public file enables citizens to engage in an informed dialog with their local video provider or to file complaints regarding provider operations. Satellite TV (also known as “Direct Broadcast Satellite” or “DBS”) providers and satellite radio (also referred to as “Satellite Digital Audio Radio Services” or “SDARS”) licensees have public and political file requirements modeled, in large part, on the longstanding broadcast requirements. With respect to DBS providers, the Commission adopted public and political inspection file requirements in 1998 in conjunction with the imposition of certain public interest obligations, including political broadcasting requirements, on those entities. DBS providers were required to “abide by political file obligations similar to those requirements placed on terrestrial broadcasters and cable systems” and were also required to maintain a public file with records relating to other DBS public interest obligations. The Commission imposed equal employment opportunity and political broadcast requirements on SDARS licensees in 1997, noting that the rationale behind imposing these requirements on broadcasters also applies to satellite radio.

The information collection requirements contained in 47 CFR 25.701(d) require each DBS provider to keep and permit public inspection of a complete and orderly record (political file) of all requests for DBS origination time made by or on behalf of candidates for public office, together with an appropriate notation showing the disposition made by the provider of such requests, and the charges made, if any, if the request is granted. The disposition includes the schedule of time purchased, when the spots actually aired, the rates charged, and the classes of time purchased. Also, when free time is provided for use by or on behalf of candidates, a record of the free time provided is to be placed in the political file. All records required to be retained by this section must be placed in the political file as soon as possible and

retained for a period of two years. DBS providers must make available, by fax, email, or by mail upon telephone request, copies of documents in their political files and assist callers by answering questions about the contents of their political files. If a requester prefers access by mail, the DBS provider must pay for postage but may require individuals requesting documents to pay for photocopying. If a DBS provider places its political file on its website, it may refer the public to the website in lieu of mailing copies.

Any material required to be maintained in the political file must be made available to the public by either mailing or website access or both.

The information collection requirements contained in 47 CFR 25.701(d) require DBS providers to place all new political file material required to be retained by this section in the online file hosted by the Commission.

47 CFR 25.701(f)(6) information collection requirements require each DBS provider to maintain a public file containing a complete and orderly record of quarterly measurements of: Channel capacity and yearly average calculations on which it bases its four percent reservation, as well as its responses to any capacity changes; a record of entities to whom noncommercial capacity is being provided, the amount of capacity being provided to each entity, the conditions under which it is being provided and the rates, if any, being paid by the entity; and a record of entities that have requested capacity, disposition of those requests and reasons for the disposition. All records required by this provision must be placed in a file available to the public as soon as possible and be retained for a period of two years.

47 CFR 25.701(f)(6) to require DBS providers to place all public file material required to be retained by this section in the online file hosted by the Commission. Each DBS provider must place in the online file the records required to be placed in the public inspection file by 47 CFR 25.701(e)(commercial limits in children’s programs) and by 47 CFR 25.601 and Part 76, Subpart E (equal employment opportunity requirements) and retain those records for the period required by those rules. In addition, each DBS provider is required to provide a link to the public inspection file hosted on the Commission’s website from the home page of its own website, if the provider has a website, and provide on its website contact information for a representative who can assist any person with disabilities

with issues related to the content of the public files. Each DBS provider is also required to include in the online public file the name, phone number, and email address of the licensee's designated contact for questions about the public file, and include in the online public file the address of the provider's local public file if the provider retains documents in the local public file that are not available in the Commission's online file.

47 CFR 25.702(b) requires each SDARS licensee to maintain a complete and orderly record (political file) of all requests for SDARS origination time made by or on behalf of candidates for public office, together with the disposition made by the provider of such requests, and the charges made, if any, if the request is granted. The disposition must include the schedule of time purchased, when the spots actually aired, the rates charged, and the classes of time purchased. Also, when free time is provided for use by or on behalf of candidates, a record of the free time provided is to be placed in the political file. SDARS licensees are required to place all records required by this section in the political file as soon as possible and retain the record for a period of two years.

The information collection requirements contained in 47 CFR 25.702(c) require each SDARS applicant or licensee to place in the online file hosted by the Commission the records required to be placed in the public inspection file by 47 CFR 25.601 and 73.2080 (equal employment opportunities) and to retain those records for the period required by those rules. Each SDARS licensee must provide a link to the public inspection file hosted on the Commission's website from the home page of its own website, if the licensee has a website, and provide on its website contact information for a representative who can assist any person with disabilities with issues related to the content of the public files. Each SDARS licensee is also required to include in the online public file the name, phone number, and email address of the licensee's designated contact for questions about the public file, and include in the online public file the address of the provider's local public file if the provider retains documents in the local public file that are not available in the Commission's online file.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024-28705 Filed 12-5-24; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. FMC-2024-0022]

Investigation Into Conditions Affecting Shipping in the Foreign Trade and Denial of Entry of Vessels Into Spanish Ports

AGENCY: Federal Maritime Commission.

ACTION: Notice of investigation and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Maritime Commission has initiated an investigation into reports that the Government of Spain (Spain) is creating conditions unfavorable to shipping in the foreign trade of the United States by denying entry to its ports to certain vessels, including those participating in the Maritime Security Program.

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 26, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FMC-2024-0022, by the following method:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Your comments must be written and in English. You may submit your comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. To submit comments on that site, search for Docket No. FMC-2024-0022 and follow the instructions provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions regarding submitting comments or the treatment of any confidential information, contact David Eng, Secretary; Phone: (202) 523-5725; Email: Secretary@fmc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

On November 19, 2024, the Federal Maritime Commission (Commission) was informed that Spain had denied entry to its ports to at least three vessels, including some that are participants in the United States Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Maritime Security Program (MSP). The Commission is concerned that this apparent policy of denying entry to certain vessels will create conditions unfavorable to shipping in the foreign trade, whether in a particular route or in commerce generally. Chapter 421 of U.S. Code Title 46, section 42101, authorizes the Commission to investigate and, if necessary, adopt regulations to adjust or meet such conditions. Remedies under Chapter 421 include, but are not limited to, refusal of entry to vessels of a country that is named in the Commission's regulations and fines of up to

\$2,304,629 per voyage. 46 U.S.C. 42106(4), 42107(1)(a); 46 CFR part 506.

II. Summary of Investigation

The Commission's statutory authority includes the mandate to monitor and evaluate conditions that affect shipping in the foreign trade of the United States. 46 U.S.C. 42101(a).¹ Chapter 421 encourages the maintenance of a United States merchant marine for the national defense and the development of domestic and foreign commerce. 46 U.S.C. 50101(b). Under a separate statutory provision, the Commission can also investigate whether a foreign government is unduly impairing the access of a vessel documented under the laws of the United States to ocean trade between foreign ports and take any action it finds appropriate to remedy any such violation. 46 U.S.C. 41108(d).

The Commission has consistently held that its powers do not only protect United States flagged shipping, and that foreign governmental actions that are detrimental to third-flag carriers can create conditions unfavorable to shipping in the United States foreign trade within the meaning of Chapter 421. *Petition of Ace Line*, 19 S.R.R. 481, 482 (FMC 1979). In the past, the Commission has investigated port practices in Japan that included restrictive and discriminatory licensing practices and refusals to grant licenses to United States carriers. *Port Restrictions and Requirements in the United States/Japan Trade*, 62 FR 9696, 9699 (March 4, 1997). The Commission has also investigated conditions created in the United States-Korea, United States-Taiwan, and United States-Venezuela trades. See Randy L. Baldemor, Comment *Federal Maritime Commission Sanctions on Japanese Carriers: A Call for Fairer Methods of Resolving Disputes*, 8 Pac. Rim L & Pol'y J. 109, at 116 (1999).

The Commission received information on November 19, 2024, indicating that Spain is denying entry into Spanish ports to certain vessels. Spain appears to have denied docking privileges to the Maersk Denver in early November. *Maersk Line Vessel Diverts to Morocco Due to Allegations in Spain*, The Maritime Executive, November 11, 2024 (available at <https://maritime-executive.com/article/maersk-line-vessel-diverts-to-morocco-due-to>

¹ The Commission may also investigate whether a foreign government or carrier's practices result in adverse impacts on United States carriers or United States oceanborne trade or creates conditions that do not exist for foreign carriers in the United States under the laws of the United States. 46 U.S. Code, Chapter 423. At this time, the Commission is not initiating an investigation pursuant to Chapter 423.