



**Billing Code 3510-BP-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Generic Clearance Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation)**

**AGENCY:** Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its commitment to improving customer service delivery, is announcing an opportunity for public comment on a new proposed Generic Clearance, “Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation)”. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before (insert date 60 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER).

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments identified by Information Collection 0690-NEW, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments to <https://www.regulations.gov>, will be posted to the docket unchanged.

- *E-Mail:* Department of Commerce PRA Clearance Officer at [PRAComments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAComments@doc.gov), Please reference OMB Control Number 0690-NEW A-11 Section 280 Improving Customer Experience.

*Instructions:* Please submit comments only and cite Information Collection 0690-NEW, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation, in all correspondence related to this collection. To confirm receipt of your comment(s), please check [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov), approximately two-to-three business days after submission to verify posting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Amira Boland, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20006, or via email to [amira.c.boland@omb.eop.gov](mailto:amira.c.boland@omb.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*I. Abstract*

In March 2018, the Administration of President Trump launched the President's Management Agenda (PMA) and established new Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals. Excellent service was established as a core component of the mission, service, stewardship model that frames the entire PMA, embedding a customer-focused approach in all of the PMA's initiatives. This model was also included in the 2018 update of the Federal Performance Framework in Circular A-11, ensuring 'excellent service' as a focus in future agency strategic planning efforts. The PMA included a CAP Goal on Improving Customer Experience with Federal Services, with a primary strategy to drive improvements within 25 of the nation's highest impact programs. This effort is supported by an interagency team and guidance in Circular A-11 requiring the collection

of customer feedback data and increasing the use of industry best practices to conduct customer research.

This new request will enable the Department of Commerce to act in accordance with OMB Circular A-11 Section 280 to ultimately transform the experience of its customers to improve both efficiency and mission delivery, and increase accountability by communicating about these efforts with the public.

Commerce will collect, analyze, and interpret information gathered through this generic clearance to identify services' accessibility, navigation, and use by customers, and make improvements in service delivery based on customer insights gathered through developing an understanding of the user experience interacting with Government. To support this, OMB Circular A-11 Section 280 established government-wide standards for mature customer experience organizations in government and measurement. To enable Federal programs to deliver the experience taxpayers deserve, they must undertake three general categories of activities: conduct ongoing customer research, gather and share customer feedback, and test services and digital products.

These data collection efforts may be either qualitative or quantitative in nature or may consist of mixed methods. Additionally, data may be collected via a variety of means, including but not limited to electronic or social media, direct or indirect observation (i.e., in person, video and audio collections), interviews, questionnaires, surveys, and focus groups. DOC will limit its inquiries to data collections that solicit strictly voluntary opinions or responses. Steps will be taken to ensure anonymity of respondents in each activity covered by this request.

All High Impact Service Providers listed at <https://www.performance.gov/cx/HISPList.pdf> are required to ask questions in these domains of their customers. However, all agencies are

encouraged to conduct their customer experience measurement in line with these standard measures.

As discussed in OMB guidance, agencies should identify their highest-impact customer journeys (using customer volume, annual program cost, and/or knowledge of customer priority as weighting factors) and select touchpoints/transactions within those journeys to collect feedback. For the purposes of this collection, Federal customer experience will focus on real-time transaction-level measures.

The results will be used to improve the delivery of Federal services and programs. It will also provide government-wide data on customer experience that can be displayed on *www.performance.gov* to help build transparency and accountability of Federal programs to the customers they serve.

As a general matter, these information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

The Department of Commerce will only submit collections under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collections are voluntary.
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government.
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies.

- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future.
- Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained.
- Information gathered is intended to be used for general service improvement and program management purposes
- Upon agreement between OMB and the agency all or a subset of information may be released as part of A-11, Section 280 requirements only on *performance.gov*. Summaries of customer research and user testing activities may be included in public-facing customer journey maps.
- Additional release of data must be done coordinated with OMB.

These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative, and actionable communications between the Agency, its customers and stakeholders, and OMB as it monitors agency compliance on Section 280. These responses will inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on services will be unavailable.

## *II. Method of Collection*

The Department of Commerce will collect this information by electronic means when possible, as well as by mail, fax, telephone, technical discussions; and customer experience activities such as feedback surveys, focus groups, user testing, and in-person interviews.

Department of Commerce may also utilize observational techniques to collect this information.

## *III. Data*

*OMB Control Number: 0690-NEW.*

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* New.

*Affected Public:* Collections will be targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future. For the purposes of this request, "customers" are individuals, businesses, and organizations that interact with a Federal Government agency or program, either directly or via a Federal contractor. This could include individuals or households; businesses or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; State, local or tribal governments; Federal government; and Universities.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 752,925

*Estimated Time Per Response:* Varied, dependent upon the data collection method used.

The possible response time to complete a questionnaire or survey may be 3 minutes or up to 2 hours to participate in an interview or focus group.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 55,450.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* 0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

#### *IV. Request for Comments*

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated

collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce  
Department.*

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