

§ 2005.5 Requests to amend records.

(a) *Requirement for written requests.* Individuals desiring to amend a record that pertains to them in a system of records maintained by STR must submit their request in writing in accordance with the procedures set forth herein unless this requirement is waived by the official having responsibility for the system of records. Records not subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 will not be amended in accordance with these provisions. However, individuals who believe that such records are inaccurate may bring this to the attention of STR.

(b) *Procedures.* (1)(i) The request to amend a record in a system of records shall be addressed to the Administrative Officer. Included in the request shall be the name of the system and a brief description of the record proposed for amendment. In the event the request to amend the record is the result of the individual's having gained access to the record in accordance with the provisions concerning access to records as set forth above, copies of previous correspondence between the individual and STR will serve in lieu of a separate description of the record.

(ii) When the individual's identity has been previously verified pursuant to § 2005.2(b)(2)(vi) herein, further verification of identity is not required as long as the communication does not suggest that a need for verification has reappeared. If the individual's identity has not been previously verified, STR may require identification validation as described in § 2005.2(b)(2)(vi). Individuals desiring assistance in the preparation of a request to amend a record should contact the Administrative Officer at the address cited above.

(iii) The exact portion of the record the individual seeks to have amended should be clearly indicated. If possible, the proposed alternative language should also be set forth, or at a minimum, the facts which the individual believes are not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete should be set forth with such particularity as to permit STR not only to understand the individual's basis for the request, but also to make an appropriate amendment to the record.

(iv) The request must also set forth the reasons why the individual believes his record is not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete. In order to avoid the retention by STR of personal information merely to permit verification of records, the burden of persuading STR to amend a record will be upon the individual. The individual must furnish sufficient facts to persuade the official in charge of the system of the inaccuracy, irrelevancy, untimeliness, or incompleteness of the record.

(2) *STR action on the request.* To the extent possible, a decision upon a request to amend a record will be made within 10 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal Federal holidays. In the event a decision cannot be made within this time frame, the individual making the request will be informed within 10 days of the expected date for a decision. The decision upon a request for amendment will include the following:

(i) The decision of the STR whether to grant in whole, or deny any part of the request to amend the record.

(ii) The reasons for the determination for any portion of the request which is denied.

(iii) The name and address of the official with whom an appeal of the denial may be lodged.

(iv) The name and address of the official designated to assist, as necessary, and upon request of, the individual making the request in the preparation of the appeal.

(v) A description of the review of the appeal within STR (see § 2005.6).

(vi) A description of any other procedures which may be required of the individual in order to process the appeal.

§ 2005.6 Request for review.

(a) Individuals wishing to request a review of the decision by STR with regard to an initial request to amend a record in accordance with the provisions of § 2005.5, should submit the request for review in writing and, to the extent possible, include the information specified in § 2005.5(a). Individuals desiring assistance in the preparation of their request for review should contact the Administrative Officer at the address provided herein.

(b) The request for review should contain a brief description of the record involved or in lieu thereof, copies of the correspondence from STR in which the request to amend was denied and also the reasons why the individual believes that the disputed information should be amended. The request for review should make reference to the information furnished by the individual in support of his claim and the reasons, as required by § 2005.5, set forth by STR in its decision denying the amendment. Appeals filed without a complete statement by the person making the request setting forth the reasons for the review will, of course, be processed. However, in order to make the appellate process as meaningful as possible, such person's disagreement should be understandably set forth. In order to avoid the unnecessary retention of personal information, STR reserves the right to dispose of the material concerning the request to amend a record if no request for review in accordance with this section is received by STR within 180 days of the mailing by STR of its decision upon an initial request. A request for review received after the 180 day period may, at the discretion of the Administrative Officer, be treated as an initial request to amend a record.

(c) The request for review should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Appeals Committee (established in 15 CFR 2004.7) Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, room 719, 1800 G St. NW., Washington, DC 20506.

(d) Final determinations on requests for reviews within STR will be made by the Freedom of Information Appeals Committee, chaired by the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations. Additional information may be requested by the Committee from the person requesting a review if necessary to make a determination.

(e) The FOI Appeals Committee will inform the person making the request in writing of the decision on the request for review within 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal Federal holidays) from the date of receipt by STR of the individual's request for review, unless the Committee extends the 30 day period for good cause. The extension and the reasons therefor will

be sent by STR to the individual within the initial 30 day period. Included in the notice of a decision being reviewed, if the decision does not grant in full the request for review, will be a description of the steps the individual may take to obtain judicial review of such a decision, and a statement that the individual may file a concise statement with STR setting forth the individual's reasons for his disagreement with the decision upon the request for review. The STR Administrative Officer has the authority to determine the "conciseness" of the statement, taking into account the scope of the disagreement and the complexity of the issues. Upon the filing of a proper concise statement by the individual, any subsequent disclosure of the information in dispute will have the information in dispute clearly noted and a copy of the concise statement furnished, setting forth its reasons for not making the requested changes, if STR chooses to file such a statement. A copy of the individual's statement, and if it chooses, STR's statement, will be sent to any prior transferee of the disputed information who is listed on the accounting required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(c).

§ 2005.7 Schedule of fees.

(a) *Prohibitions against charging fees.* Individuals will not be charged for:

(1) The search and review of the record;

(2) Any copies of the record produced as a necessary part of the process of making the record available for access; or

(3) Any copies of the requested record when it has been determined that access can only be accomplished by providing a copy of the record through the mail.

(b) *Waiver.* The Administrative Officer may, at no charge, provide copies of a record if it is determined the production of the copies is in the interest of the Government.

(c) *Fee schedule and method of payment.* Fees will be charged as provided below except as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(1) Duplication of records. Records will be duplicated at a rate of \$.10 per page for all copying of 4 pages or more.