Template Version Number: 01-2024

U.S. Department of Commerce
[Bureau Name]

Privacy Threshold Analysis
for the
[IT System Name]

U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Threshold Analysis

[Name of Bureau/Name of IT System]

Unique Project Identifier: [Number]

Introduction: This Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) is a questionnaire to assist with determining if a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is necessary for this IT system. This PTA is primarily based on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) privacy guidance and the Department of Commerce (DOC) IT security/privacy policy. If questions arise or further guidance is needed in order to complete this PTA, please contact your Bureau Chief Privacy Officer (BCPO).

Description of the information system: *Provide a brief description of the information system.*

The E-Government Act of 2002 defines "information system" by reference to the definition section of Title 44 of the United States Code. The following is a summary of the definition: "Information system" means a discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information. See: 44. U.S.C. § 3502(8).

Address the following elements:

a) Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system
b) System location
c) Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)
d) The purpose that the system is designed to serve
e) The way the system operates to achieve the purpose
f) A general description of the type of information collected, maintained, used, or disseminated by the system
g) Identify individuals who have access to information on the system
h) How information in the system is retrieved by the user
i) How information is transmitted to and from the system

Questionnaire:

1. Status of the Information System

1a. What is the status of this information system?

____ This is a new information system. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*

____ This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks. *Complete chart below, continue to answer questions, and complete certification.*

Changes That Create New Privacy Risks (CTCNPR)					
a. Conversions		d. Significant Merging		g. New Interagency Uses	
b. Anonymous to Non-Anonymous		e. New Public Access		h. Internal Flow or Collection	
c. Significant System Management Changes		f. Commercial Sources		i. Alteration in Character of Data	
j. Other changes that create new privacy risks (specify):					

____ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is not a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*

____ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment. *Skip questions and complete certification.*

1b. Has an IT Compliance in Acquisitions Checklist been completed with the appropriate signatures?

____ Yes. This is a new information system.

____ Yes. This is an existing information system for which an amended contract is needed.

____ No. The IT Compliance in Acquisitions Checklist is not required for the acquisition of equipment for specialized Research and Development or scientific purposes that are not a National Security System.

____ No. This is not a new information system.

2. Is the IT system or its information used to support any activity which may raise privacy concerns?

NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 4, Appendix J, states "Organizations may also engage in activities that do not involve the collection and use of PII but may nevertheless raise privacy concerns and associated risk. The privacy controls are equally applicable to

those activities and can be used to analyze the privacy risk and mitigate such risk when necessary." Examples include, but are not limited to, audio recordings, video surveillance, building entry readers, and electronic purchase transactions.

____ Yes. *(Check all that apply.)*

Activities			
Audio recordings		Building entry readers	
Video surveillance		Electronic purchase transactions	
Other (specify):			

____ No.

3. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate business identifiable information (BII)?

As per DOC Privacy Policy: "For the purpose of this policy, business identifiable information consists of (a) information that is defined in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." (5 U.S.C.552(b)(4)). This information is exempt from automatic release under the (b)(4) FOIA exemption. "Commercial" is not confined to records that reveal basic commercial operations" but includes any records [or information] in which the submitter has a commercial interest" and can include information submitted by a nonprofit entity, or (b) commercial or other information that, although it may not be exempt from release under FOIA, is exempt from disclosure by law (e.g., 13 U.S.C.)."

____ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates BII.

____ No, this IT system does not collect any BII.

4. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

4a. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII?

As per OMB 17-12: "The term PII refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity either alone or when combined with other information that is linked or linkable to a specific individual."

____ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII about: (*Check all that apply.)*

____ DOC employees
____ Contractors working on behalf of DOC
____ Other Federal Government personnel
____ Members of the public

____ No, this IT system does not collect any PII.

If the answer is "yes" to question 4a, please respond to the following questions.

4b. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate Social Security numbers (SSNs), including truncated form?

____ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates SSNs, including truncated form.

Provide an explanation for the business need requiring the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.
Provide the legal authority which permits the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.

____ No, the IT system does not collect, maintain, or disseminate SSNs, including truncated form.

4c. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII other than user ID?

____ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII other than user ID.

____ No, the user ID is the only PII collected, maintained, or disseminated by the IT system.

4d. Will the purpose for which the PII is collected, stored, used, processed, disclosed, or disseminated (context of use) cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level?

Examples of context of use include, but are not limited to, law enforcement investigations, administration of benefits, contagious disease treatments, etc.

____ Yes, the context of use will cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

____ No, the context of use will not cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

If any of the answers to questions 2, 3, 4b, 4c, and/or 4d are "Yes," a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed for the IT system. This PTA and the SAOP approved PIA must be a part of the IT system's Assessment and Authorization Package.

CERTIFICATION

_____ The criteria implied by one or more of the questions above **apply** to the [IT SYSTEM NAME] and as a consequence of this applicability, a PIA will be performed and documented for this IT system.

_____ The criteria implied by the questions above **do not apply** to the [IT SYSTEM NAME] and as a consequence of this non-applicability, a PIA for this IT system is not necessary.

Information System Security Officer or System Owner Name: Office: Phone: Email: Signature: _____ Date signed: _____	**Information Technology Security Officer** Name: Office: Phone: Email: Signature: _____ Date signed: _____
Privacy Act Officer Name: Office: Phone: Email: Signature: _____ Date signed: _____	**Authorizing Official** Name: Office: Phone: Email: Signature: _____ Date signed: _____
Bureau Chief Privacy Officer Name: Office: Phone: Email: Signature: _____ Date signed: _____	