

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**



**Privacy Impact Assessment  
for the  
Landon IP Information System**

Reviewed by: Henry J. Holcombe, Bureau Chief Privacy Officer

- ☒ Concurrence of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer  
☐ Non-concurrence of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer

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03/22/2021

Date

## U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Impact Assessment USPTO Landon IP Information System

**Unique Project Identifier: [1861] PTOC-019-00**

### **Introduction: System Description**

*Provide a description of the system that addresses the following elements:*

*The response must be written in plain language and be as comprehensive as necessary to describe the system.*

The LIPIS is an infrastructure information system that is designed to support the USPTO international application or PCT application process. The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) provides a unified procedure for filing patent applications to protect inventions in each of its Contracting States. The LIPIS facilitates PCT searches and enables Landon IP employees to submit an accompanying written opinion regarding the patentability of the invention in question.

Landon IP is under contract with the USPTO to perform work related to PCT applications. Landon IP receives PCT application data from the USPTO via SFTP, a secure file transfer system based on the SSH protocol. Utilizing this data, Landon IP conducts searches and develops opinion papers for the USPTO.

In support of this contract with the USPTO, Landon IP has implemented the LIPIS. The LIPIS is the automated information system comprised of the Landon IP network environment that supports the USPTO. The LIPIS was developed to provide a comprehensive set of security controls to adequately protect USPTO data. The LIPIS is a networked system of servers, equipment, and applications that meet the requirements for the General Support System/Infrastructure System.

***(a) Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system***

The Landon IP Information System (LIPIS) is a General Support System.

***(b) System location***

LIPIS is located in Reston, VA.

***(c) Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)***

LIPIS interconnects with the Network and Security Infrastructure (NSI).

***(d) The way the system operates to achieve the purpose(s) identified in Section 4***

LIPIS operates by receiving patent applications from USPTO, storing the data and distributing it to LIPIS staff to conduct searches and develop opinion papers. Completed deliverables are returned from LIPIS to USPTO.

***(e) How information in the system is retrieved by the user***

LIPIS receives the information from USPTO and stores it on a file server for review and assignment. Assigned applications are accessed by analysts who connect to LIPIS via Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP). Completed applications are stored on the file server and returned to USPTO.

**(f) How information is transmitted to and from the system**

Data transmitted between LIPIS and USPTO uses an end-to-end secure file transfer solution.

**(g) Any information sharing conducted by the system**

LIPIS shares information with USPTO and International bureaus.

**(h) The specific programmatic authorities (statutes or Executive Orders) for collecting, maintaining, using, and disseminating the information**

35 U.S.C. 1, 2, 41, 115, and 261; E.O. 9424; 5 U.S.C. 301

**(i) The Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category for the system**

Moderate

**Section 1: Status of the Information System**

1.1 Indicate whether the information system is a new or existing system.

- ☐ This is a new information system.
- ☐ This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks.  
(Check all that apply.)

Changes That Create New Privacy Risks (CTCNPR)					
a. Conversions	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Significant Merging	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. New Interagency Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Anonymous to Non-Anonymous	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. New Public Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Internal Flow or Collection	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Significant System Management Changes	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Commercial Sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Alteration in Character of Data	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.
- ☐ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment (version 01-2015).
- ☒ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment (version 01-2017 or later).

**Section 2: Information in the System**

2.1 Indicate what personally identifiable information (PII)/business identifiable information (BII) is collected, maintained, or disseminated. (Check all that apply.)

Identifying Numbers (IN)					
a. Social Security*	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Financial Account	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Taxpayer ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Financial Transaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Employer ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Alien Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. Vehicle Identifier	<input type="checkbox"/>

d. Employee ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Credit Card	<input type="checkbox"/>	m. Medical Record	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. File/Case ID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
n. Other identifying numbers (specify):					
*Explanation for the business need to collect, maintain, or disseminate the Social Security number, including truncated form:					

<b>General Personal Data (GPD)</b>					
a. Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	h. Date of Birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	o. Financial Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Maiden Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Place of Birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	p. Medical Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Alias	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Home Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	q. Military Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Telephone Number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	r. Criminal Record	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. Email Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	s. Physical Characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Race/Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	m. Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	t. Mother's Maiden Name	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Citizenship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n. Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>		
u. Other general personal data (specify):					

<b>Work-Related Data (WRD)</b>					
a. Occupation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	e. Work Email Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	i. Business Associates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Job Title	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Salary	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Proprietary or Business Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Work Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	g. Work History	<input type="checkbox"/>		
d. Work Telephone Number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	h. Employment Performance Ratings or other Performance Information	<input type="checkbox"/>		
k. Other work-related data (specify): Lawyer or agent contact information (address, phone number, email)					

<b>Distinguishing Features/Biometrics (DFB)</b>					
a. Fingerprints	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. DNA Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Palm Prints	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Scars, Marks, Tattoos	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Retina/Iris Scans	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Voice Recording/Signatures	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Vascular Scan	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Dental Profile	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other distinguishing features/biometrics (specify):					

<b>System Administration/Audit Data (SAAD)</b>					
a. UserID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c. Date/Time of Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	e. ID Files Accessed	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. IP Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	d. Queries Run	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Contents of Files	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Other system administration/audit data (specify):					

<b>Other Information (specify)</b>					

2.2 Indicate sources of the PII/BII in the system. *(Check all that apply.)*

Directly from Individual about Whom the Information Pertains					
In Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hard Copy: Mail/Fax	<input type="checkbox"/>	Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other(specify):					

Government Sources					
Within the Bureau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other DOC Bureaus	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Federal Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>
State, Local, Tribal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other(specify):					

Non-government Sources					
Public Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Data Brokers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Third Party Website or Application			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other(specify):					

## 2.3 Describe how the accuracy of the information in the system is ensured.

LIPIS encrypts data during transmission, performs incremental and full backups, unusual activity is logged and audited prompting review, and logical and physical access controls are leveraged to limit access to the system and its data to authorized individuals.
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## 2.4 Is the information covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the information is covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act. Provide the OMB control number and the agency number for the collection. 0651-0031 Patent Processing 0651-0032 Initial Patent Application
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, the information is not covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act.

2.5 Indicate the technologies used that contain PII/BII in ways that have not been previously deployed. *(Check all that apply.)*

Technologies Used Containing PII/BII Not Previously Deployed (TUCPBNPD)			
Smart Cards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biometrics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caller-ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Cards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other(specify):			

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are not any technologies used that contain PII/BII in ways that have not been previously deployed.
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**Section 3: System Supported Activities**

- 3.1 Indicate IT system supported activities which raise privacy risks/concerns. *(Check all that apply.)*

<b>Activities</b>			
Audio recordings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Building entry readers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video surveillance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic purchase transactions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other(specify):			

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are not any IT systems supported activities which raise privacy risks/concerns.
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**Section 4: Purpose of the System**

- 4.1 Indicate why the PII/BII in the IT system is being collected, maintained, or disseminated. *(Check all that apply.)*

<b>Purpose</b>			
For a Computer Matching Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	For administering human resources programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
For administrative matters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To promote information sharing initiatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For litigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	For criminal law enforcement activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
For civil enforcement activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	For intelligence activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
To improve Federal services online	<input type="checkbox"/>	For employee or customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
For web measurement and customization technologies (single-session )	<input type="checkbox"/>	For web measurement and customization technologies (multi-session )	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other(specify):			

**Section 5: Use of the Information**

- 5.1 In the context of functional areas (business processes, missions, operations, etc.) supported by the IT system, describe how the PII/BII that is collected, maintained, or disseminated will be used. Indicate if the PII/BII identified in Section 2.1 of this document is in reference to a federal employee/contractor, member of the public, foreign national, visitor or other (specify).

The PII and/or BII data is collected by the USPTO to facilitate the patent application process. The PII/BII comes from persons applying for patents through the USPTO. This could include members of the public. Filing of an application is accompanied with a search report and a written opinion regarding the patentability of the invention which is the subject of the application.

Under the terms and conditions of the PCT, the USPTO serves as a Receiving Office, an International Searching Authority and an International Preliminary Examination Authority for international patent applications filed in accordance with the PCT. A single filing of an international application is accompanied with a search report and a written opinion regarding the patentability of the invention which is the subject of the application. Applicants are required to provide the information to the Receiving Office, in this case the USPTO, as part

of the application process.

- 5.2 Describe any potential threats to privacy as a result of the bureau's/operating unit's use of the information, and controls that the bureau/operating unit has put into place to ensure that the information is handled, retained, and disposed appropriately. (For example: mandatory training for system users regarding appropriate handling of information, automatic purging of information in accordance with the retention schedule, etc.)

Nation states and adversarial entities are the predominant threats to the information collected and its privacy. The system has implemented security controls following NIST guidance to deter and prevent threats to privacy. Controls implemented enforce physical and logical access; auditing of system, application and security events; encryption during transmission; and security awareness training.

## **Section 6: Information Sharing and Access**

- 6.1 Indicate with whom the bureau intends to share the PII/BII in the IT system and how the PII/BII will be shared. (*Check all that apply.*)

Recipient	How Information will be Shared		
	Case-by-Case	Bulk Transfer	Direct Access
Within the bureau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOC bureaus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State, local, tribal gov't agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign governments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign entities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify): International bureaus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ The PII/BII in the system will not be shared.

- 6.2 Indicate whether the IT system connects with or receives information from any other IT systems authorized to process PII and/or BII.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, this IT system connects with or receives information from another IT system(s) authorized to process PII and/or BII. Provide the name of the IT system and describe the technical controls which prevent PII/BII leakage: LIPIS receives information from NSI using an end-to-end secure file transfer solution.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, this IT system does not connect with or receive information from another IT system(s) authorized to process PII and/or BII.

- 6.3 Identify the class of users who will have access to the IT system and the PII/BII. *(Check all that apply.)*

Class of Users			
General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Employees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contractors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other (specify):			

## **Section 7: Notice and Consent**

- 7.1 Indicate whether individuals will be notified if their PII/BII is collected, maintained, or disseminated by the system. *(Check all that apply.)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, notice is provided pursuant to a system of records notice published in the Federal Register and discussed in Section 9.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, notice is provided by a Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy. The Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy can be found at: <a href="https://www.uspto.gov/privacy-policy">https://www.uspto.gov/privacy-policy</a> .	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, notice is provided by other means.	Specify how: Notice is provided at the time of collection by the Patent Capture and Application Processing System – Initial Processing (PCAPS-IP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, notice is not provided.	Specify why not:

- 7.2 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify how: Applicants have the opportunity to decline to provide their PII/BII. This option is provided by PCAPS-IP. LIPIS does not collect PII/BII data directly.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify why not:

- 7.3 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify how: A patent applicant's submission constitutes their consent to the use of the information for the purpose(s) stated at the time of the collection. This option is provided by PCAPS-IP
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify why not:

- 7.4 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to	Specify how: During patent submission via PCAPS-IP
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	review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.	EFSWeb, applicants have opportunities to update PII/BII data prior to final submission. After a patent submission, users must contact the Electronic Business Center for PII/BII updates. All subsequent PII/BII updates occur within PCAPS-ES system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.	Specify why not:

## **Section 8: Administrative and Technological Controls**

8.1 Indicate the administrative and technological controls for the system. *(Check all that apply.)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All users signed a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All users are subject to a Code of Conduct that includes the requirement for confidentiality.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff (employees and contractors) received training on privacy and confidentiality policies and practices.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to the PII/BII is restricted to authorized personnel only.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to the PII/BII is being monitored, tracked, or recorded. Explanation: System and application auditable events are leveraged to monitor, track and record access to PII/BII.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The information is secured in accordance with FISMA requirements. Provide date of most recent Assessment and Authorization (A&A): 01/02/2021 <input type="checkbox"/> This is a new system. The A&A date will be provided when the A&A package is approved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 199 security impact category for this system is a moderate or higher.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-122 and NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4 Appendix J recommended security controls for protecting PII/BII are in place and functioning as intended; or have an approved Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A security assessment report has been reviewed for the supporting information system and it has been determined that there are no additional privacy risks.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractors that have access to the system are subject to information security provisions in their contracts required by DOC policy.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contracts with customers establish ownership rights over data including PII/BII.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acceptance of liability for exposure of PII/BII is clearly defined in agreements with customers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

8.2 Provide a general description of the technologies used to protect PII/BII on the IT system. *(Include data encryption in transit and/or at rest, if applicable).*

Controls implemented enforce physical and logical access; auditing of system, application and security events; encryption during transmission; and security awareness training.

## **Section 9: Privacy Act**

9.1 Indicate whether a system of records is being created under the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. *(A new system of records notice (SORN) is required if the system is not covered*

*by an existing SORN).*

As per the Privacy Act of 1974, “the term ‘system of records’ means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.”

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, this system is covered by an existing system of records notice (SORN). Provide the SORN name and number ( <i>list all that apply</i> ):  PAT-TM-7, Patent Application Files PAT/TM—10, Deposit Accounts and Electronic Funds Transfer Profiles
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, a SORN has been submitted to the Department for approval on <u>(date)</u> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, this system is not a system of records and a SORN is not applicable.

## **Section 10: Retention of Information**

10.1 Indicate whether these records are covered by an approved records control schedule and monitored for compliance. (*Check all that apply.*)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is an approved record control schedule. Provide the name of the record control schedule: Patent Case Files, Granted (N1-241-10-1:2) Abandoned Patent Applications, Not Referenced in Granted Case File (N1-241-10-1:3) Patent Examination Working Files (N1-241-10-1:4.2)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, there is not an approved record control schedule. Provide the stage in which the project is in developing and submitting a records control schedule:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, retention is monitored for compliance to the schedule.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, retention is not monitored for compliance to the schedule. Provide explanation:

10.2 Indicate the disposal method of the PII/BII. (*Check all that apply.*)

<b>Disposal</b>			
Shredding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Overwriting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Degaussing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deleting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify):			

## **Section 11: NIST Special Publication 800-122 PII Confidentiality Impact Levels**

11.1 Indicate the potential impact that could result to the subject individuals and/or the organization if PII were inappropriately accessed, used, or disclosed.  
(*The PII Confidentiality Impact Level is not the same as the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category.*)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Low – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a limited adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moderate – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a serious adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	High – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a severe or

	catastrophic adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
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11.2 Indicate which factors were used to determine the above PII confidentiality impact levels.  
(Check all that apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Identifiability	Provide explanation: Inventor name, Inventor address, Citizenship, Correspondence address, Employer name and address, Telephone number[s], and E-mail address.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quantity of PII	Provide explanation: LIPIS continuously receives and returns thousands of patent applications containing PII information.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data Field Sensitivity	Provide explanation: Patent application PII: Inventor name, Inventor address, Citizenship, Correspondence address, Employer name and address, Telephone number[s], and E-mail address.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Context of Use	Provide explanation: Information is for identifying and tracking patent applicants & applications.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Obligation to Protect Confidentiality	Provide explanation: Based on the data fields and in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, PII must be protected (LIPIS is also contractually obligated to protect PII).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to and Location of PII	Provide explanation: Because the information containing PII must be transmitted outside of the USPTO environment, there is an added need to ensure the confidentiality of information during transmission.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	Provide explanation:

## **Section 12: Analysis**

12.1 Identify and evaluate any potential threats to privacy that exist in light of the information collected or the sources from which the information is collected. Also, describe the choices that the bureau/operating unit made with regard to the type or quantity of information collected and the sources providing the information in order to prevent or mitigate threats to privacy. (For example: If a decision was made to collect less data, include a discussion of this decision; if it is necessary to obtain information from sources other than the individual, explain why.)

Nation states and adversarial entities are the predominant threats to the information collected and its privacy. Security controls following NIST guidance were implemented to deter and prevent threats to privacy.
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12.2 Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required business process changes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required business process changes. Explanation:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required business process changes.

12.3 Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required technology changes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required technology changes. Explanation:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required technology changes.