

Recovery and Resilience, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for Private Non-Profit organizations in the State of Oregon, dated April 7, 2026, is hereby amended to include the following areas as adversely affected by the disaster.

Primary Counties: Clatsop, Wasco.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

(Authority: 13 CFR 123.3(b).)

James Stallings,

Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA-2025-0684]

Notice on Penalty Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice announcing the continuance of 2025 civil monetary penalties (CMP) levels for calendar year 2026.

SUMMARY: The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (2015 Act) requires us to annually adjust the level of CMPs for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) and provide notice concerning these new amounts. We are providing notice that we will continue to use the 2025 civil monetary penalty levels as applicable through January 14, 2027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessica Stubbs Platt, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General, Room 3-ME-1, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 816-4054. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call the Social Security Administration's national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778, or visit the Social Security Administration's internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 27, 2016, pursuant to the 2015 Act,¹ we

¹ See Public Law 114-74; 129 Stat. 584. See also 81 FR 41438, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/06/27/2016-13241/penalty-inflation-adjustments-for-civil-money-penalties>.

published an interim final rule to adjust the level of CMPs under Sections 1129 and 1140 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320a-8 and 1320b-10, respectively, with an initial "catch-up" adjustment effective August 1, 2016.² We announced in the interim final rule that for any future adjustments, we would publish a notice in the **Federal Register** to announce the new amounts. The annual inflation adjustment in subsequent years must be a cost-of-living adjustment based on any increases in the October CPI-U data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (not seasonally adjusted) each year.³ We last updated the maximum penalty amounts effective January 15, 2025.⁴

On April 17, 2026, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published Memorandum M-26-11, *Cancellation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2026, Regarding the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015*.⁵ This Memorandum, among other provisions, announced to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies that due to the government shutdown in the fall of 2025,⁶ the Bureau of Labor Statistics was unable to produce the October 2025 data informing the CPI-U, which is necessary to make adjustments under the 2015 Act. Consequently, agencies are instructed to continue

² See 81 FR 41438, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/06/27/2016-13241/penalty-inflation-adjustments-for-civil-money-penalties>.

³ See OMB Memorandum, Implementation of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, M-16-06, p. 1 (February 24, 2016), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy_drupal_files/omb/memoranda/2016/m-16-06.pdf. See also 81 FR 41438, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/06/27/2016-13241/penalty-inflation-adjustments-for-civil-money-penalties>.

⁴ See 89 FR 105674, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/27/2024-30791/notice-on-penalty-inflation-adjustments-for-civil-monetary-penalties>.

⁵ See OMB Memorandum, Cancellation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2026, Regarding the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, M-26-11, (April 17, 2026), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/M-26-11-Cancellation-of-Penalty-Inflation-Adjustments-for-2026-Regarding-the-Federal-Civil-Penalties-Inflation-Adjustment-Act-Improvements-Act-of-2015.pdf>.

⁶ The federal government experienced a funding gap beginning on October 1, 2025—the start of FY 2026—and ending when the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Pub. L. 119-37), was signed into law on November 12, 2025. The funding gap resulted in a "government shutdown" and the furlough of employees who were not excepted. See The 2025 (FY2026) Government Shutdown: Economic Effects | [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) | Library of Congress.

using the 2025 CMP levels as applicable.⁷

Based on OMB's guidance, we will continue to apply the 2025 penalty levels throughout calendar year 2026 until January 14, 2027.

Mark Steffensen,

General Counsel, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026-11050 Filed 6-2-26; 8:45 am]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36919]

Galveston Railroad, L.P.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves

Galveston Railroad, L.P. (GVSR), a Class III rail carrier and wholly owned subsidiary of Genesee & Wyoming Inc., has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to lease from the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves (GW) and to operate the track in and around the Port of Galveston, Tex. (the Line).¹

According to the verified notice, Galveston Railway, Inc. (GRI) first received authority to operate the Line in 1987,² and GVSR subsequently acquired GRI.³ GVSR and GW entered into a 20-year lease for GVSR to operate the Line in 2006, but GVSR never obtained Board authority to enter into that lease agreement or any subsequent lease amendments.

GVSR states that it is now seeking Board authority to enter into a lease amendment (Lease Amendment) extending the term of the 2006 lease by one year with a provision that automatically renews the Lease Amendment for two additional one-year periods. GVSR states that it will continue to operate over the Line as a common carrier.

GVSR certifies that the Lease Amendment does not include any interchange commitments. Further, GVSR certifies that its projected annual

⁷ See OMB Memorandum, Cancellation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2026, Regarding the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, M-26-11, (April 17, 2026), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/M-26-11-Cancellation-of-Penalty-Inflation-Adjustments-for-2026-Regarding-the-Federal-Civil-Penalties-Inflation-Adjustment-Act-Improvements-Act-of-2015.pdf>.

¹ The verified notice indicates that no mileposts exist for the Line.

² *Galveston Ry.—Lease & Operation of Rail Lines of Galveston Wharves*, FD 31141 (ICC served Nov. 5, 1987).

³ *Galveston R.R.—Acquis. & Operation Exemption—Galveston Ry.*, FD 31869 (Sub-No. 1) (ICC served July 5, 1991).

revenues from this transaction will not exceed \$5 million and will not exceed those that would qualify it as a Class III carrier.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is June 17, 2026, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions to stay must be filed no later than June 10, 2026 (at least seven days before the exemption becomes effective).

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36919, should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing on the Board's website or in writing addressed to 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on GVSR's representative, Justin J. Marks, Clark Hill PLC, 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1300 South, Washington, DC 20004.

According to GVSR, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic reporting under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: May 29, 2026.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

Jeffrey Herzig,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2026-11041 Filed 6-2-26; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. USTR-2026-0364]

Initiation of Section 301 Investigation and Request for Public Comments: Vietnam's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Initiation of investigation; proposed determination; and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 182(a)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Trade Act), the U.S. Trade Representative (Trade Representative) identified Vietnam as a priority foreign country due to Vietnam's denial of

adequate and effective protection of intellectual property (IP) rights and its denial of fair and equitable market access to persons that rely on IP protection. Pursuant to section 302(b)(2) of the Trade Act, the Trade Representative is initiating a Section 301 investigation of the acts, policies, and practices of the Government of Vietnam related to IP protection and enforcement that resulted in the identification of Vietnam as a priority foreign country. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) proposes to determine that these acts, policies, and practices are actionable under section 301(b). USTR invites interested persons to submit written comments concerning the issues covered in the investigation.

DATES:

April 30, 2026: The Trade Representative identified Vietnam as a priority foreign country in the 2026 Special 301 Report.

May 29, 2026: The Trade Representative initiated a Section 301 investigation.

May 29, 2026: USTR will open the docket for submission of written comments.

July 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT: To be assured of consideration, submit written comments by this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit documents in response to this notice through the online USTR portal: <https://comments.ustr.gov/s/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning comments, contact the USTR Section 301 support line at (202) 395-5725. Direct all other questions regarding this notice to Megan Grimball, Chair of the Section 301 Committee, or Christina Olson, Senior Associate General Counsel, at (202) 395-5725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Identification of Vietnam as a Priority Foreign Country

Section 182 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2242) ("Special 301") authorizes the Trade Representative to identify foreign countries that deny adequate and effective protection of IP rights or that deny fair and equitable market access to persons that rely on IP protection. In making Special 301 determinations, USTR chairs the Special 301 committee of the statutory, interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), which reviews information from many sources, including written submissions from the public and a public hearing, and makes recommendations to the Trade

Representative on Special 301 country identifications.

Under section 182(b) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2242), the Trade Representative shall only identify as "priority foreign countries" those foreign countries (1) that "have the most onerous or egregious acts, policies, or practices"; (2) whose acts, policies, and practices "have the greatest adverse impact (actual or potential) on the relevant United States products"; and (3) that "are not entering into good faith negotiations, or making significant progress in bilateral or multilateral negotiations," to provide adequate and effective protection for IP rights. Section 182 provides that identification of priority foreign countries shall take into account the history of IP laws and practices of the foreign country, including any previous identifications as a priority foreign country, and the history of efforts of the United States to achieve adequate and effective protection and enforcement of IP rights.

In the April 30, 2026, Special 301 Report, the Trade Representative identified Vietnam as a priority foreign country. The 2026 Special 301 review found that Vietnam has demonstrated a persistent failure to resolve long-standing concerns about IP protection and enforcement. USTR first approached Vietnam in 2020 with a proposal for an IP Work Plan to address issues identified in the 2020 Special 301 Report, which Vietnam minimally engaged on. USTR supplemented its outreach to address these long-standing IP protection and enforcement concerns by sending Vietnam a revised IP Work Plan proposal in 2023. However, Vietnam failed to make meaningful progress on these issues in subsequent bilateral engagement, as well as in recent negotiations for an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair, and Balanced Trade. The 2026 Special 301 Report also finds that Vietnam's weak IP protection and enforcement harms the industries reliant on IP protection both in Vietnam's market and in other markets as well.

A full discussion of the basis for Vietnam's designation as a priority foreign country is set out in the April 30, 2026, Special 301 Report, which may be found at <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/2026/2026%20Special%20301%20Report.pdf>. A summary of the basis for identification is set out below.

The first ground for the Trade Representative's identification of Vietnam as a priority foreign country is the failure to provide persistent and effective enforcement to combat online