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Acting Manager, Airspace Regulation Group.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

15 CFR Parts 2, 4, and 15

[Docket No. 261030–0008]

RIN 0605–AA95

Nomenclature Change Related to Assistant General Counsel Titles

AGENCY: Department of Commerce (Department).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department is effectuating nomenclature changes throughout Title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations to remove all references to an outdated official title (''Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation and Information'') and replace them with updated references to the appropriate official (the ''Assistant General Counsel for Litigation and Strategic Support'' or the ''Assistant General Counsel for Information Security and Emerging Technologies''). This action is necessary to reflect the current structure and roles within the Department and to ensure that the regulations at Title 15 remain up to date and refer the public to the appropriate officials. This action is intended to promote clarity and efficiency without making any substantive changes to any regulations.

DATES: The rule is effective November 4, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel Sweeney, Deputy General Counsel for Economic, Statistical, and Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, at (240) 474–3619.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of a restructuring of the Department's Office of the General Counsel, the official role of ''Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation and Information'' has been eliminated. However, that title remains referenced in 15 CFR part 2 (§§ 2.4(b), 2.5(a)–(b)); 15 CFR part 4 (§§ 4.10(b)(1), 4.10(c), 4.23(d)(2), 4.25(a)(2), 4.25(g)(3)(ii), 4.28(a)(1)(ii), 4.28(a)(2)(ii)(D), 4.29(b)(1), 4.29(c), 4.29(e), 4.29(g)(1), 4.29(h), 4.29(i), and Appendix B); and 15 CFR part 15 (§§ 15.13(b)(1), 15.13(c), 15.13(d)(1), and 15.17). This action effectuates a nomenclature change and replaces those references with updated references to the appropriate officials—specifically, the ''Assistant General Counsel for Litigation and Strategic Support'' for parts 2 and 15, and the ''Assistant General Counsel for Information Security and Emerging Technologies'' for part 4. This action also updates the room number for the Assistant General Counsel for Information Security and Emerging Technologies. This action does not make any other changes to the Code of Federal Regulations and does not make any substantive changes. This action ensures that the Department's regulations remain up to date and reduces the risk of confusion and/or administrative delay.

Regulatory Classifications

A. Administrative Procedure Act

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act requiring notice of proposed rulemaking and the opportunity for public participation are inapplicable to this rule because it relates to ''agency management or personnel or to public property, loans, grants, or contracts.'' This rule only updates references to the titles of appropriate Department officials and thus falls squarely within the ambit of ''agency management or personnel.'' Accordingly, the Department issues this final rule without prior public notice and comment or a delayed effective date under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2).

B. Executive Orders 12866, 14192, and 13132

The Office of Management and Budget has determined this rule is not significant pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 12866. This rule is not subject to E.O.14192 because this rule is not significant. This rule does not contain policies having federalism implications as the term is defined in E.O. 13132.

C. Regulatory Flexibility Act

Because a notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity for public participation are not required to be given for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are not applicable. Accordingly, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required, and none has been prepared.

D. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule will not impose additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects

15 CFR Part 2

Administrative practice and procedure, Authority delegations (Government agencies), Claims.

15 CFR Part 4

Administrative practice and procedure, Public information, Archives and records, Freedom of Information Act, Penalties, Privacy Act.

15 CFR Part 15

Administrative practice and procedure, Courts, Government employees.

Dated: November 2, 2026.

Daniel Sweeney,

Deputy General Counsel for Economic, Statistical, and Regulatory Affairs.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, parts 2, 4, and 15 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations are amended as follows:

PART 2—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for part 2 continues to read as:

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 2672.

■ 2. In part 2, remove the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation and Information'', wherever it appears, and add, in its place, the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Litigation and Strategic Support''.

PART 4—[AMENDED]

■ 3. The authority citation for part 4 continues to read as:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 5 U.S.C. 552; 5 U.S.C. 552a; 5 U.S.C. 553; 31 U.S.C. 3717; 44 U.S.C. 3101; Reorganization Plan No. 5 of 1950.

■ 4. In part 4, remove the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation and Information'', wherever it appears, and add, in its place, the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Information Security and Emerging Technologies''.

■ 5. In part 4, remove the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information'', wherever it appears, and add, in its place, the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Information Security and Emerging Technologies''.

■ 6. In part 4, remove the text ''AGC–ELI'', wherever it appears, and add, in its place, the text ''AGC–ISET''.

■ 7. In part 4, remove the text ''Room 5896'', wherever it appears, and add, in its place, the text ''Room 5092''.

PART 15—[AMENDED]

■ 8. The authority citation for part 15 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 15 U.S.C. 1501, 1512, 1513, 1515 and 1518; Reorganization Plan No. 5 of 1950; 3 CFR, 1949–1953 Comp., p. 1004; 44 U.S.C. 3101; subpart C is issued under 37 U.S.C. 101, 706; 15 U.S.C. 1673; 42 U.S.C. 665.

■ 9. In part 15, remove the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information'', wherever it appears, and add, in its place, the text ''Assistant General Counsel for Litigation and Strategic Support''.

[FR Doc. 2026–22463 Filed 11–3–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

21 CFR Part 1301

[Docket No. DEA–1303]

RIN 1117–ZA09

Technical Amendment to the Regulation Regarding Amendments to Applications

AGENCY: Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Final rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: This final rule updates a Drug Enforcement Administration regulation to clarify that the provision regarding amendments to and withdrawal of registration applications also applies to applications for registration renewal. This action makes no substantive changes to this regulation.

DATES: This rule is effective November 4, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather E. Achbach, Regulatory Drafting and Policy Support Section, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration; Mailing Address: 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152; Telephone: (571) 776–3882.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Legal Authority

The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) grants the Attorney General authority to promulgate and enforce rules and regulations pertaining to the registration and control of the manufacture, distribution, and dispensing of controlled substances and the maintenance and submission of records and reports related thereto.[1] The CSA further authorizes the Attorney General to promulgate regulations necessary and appropriate to execute the functions of subchapter I (Control and Enforcement) and subchapter II (Import and Export) of the CSA.[2] The Attorney General has delegated this authority to the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).[3]

Technical Amendment

DEA regulations state that an application shall be deemed to be withdrawn if an applicant requests an application to be returned, or if an applicant fails to respond to official correspondence regarding the application when sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.[4] The use of the term ''applicant'' may inadvertently suggest that this provision applies only to new registration applications and is not applicable to registration renewal applications. In this final rule, DEA is adding ''or registrant'' after ''applicant'' in 21 CFR 1301.16(b) to clarify that this provision regarding amendments to and withdrawal of registration applications applies to both registration and registration renewal applications.

Regulatory Analyses

Administrative Procedure Act

An agency may find good cause to exempt a rule from certain provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), including those requiring the publication of a prior notice of proposed rulemaking and the opportunity for public comment, if such actions are determined to be unnecessary, impracticable, or contrary to the public interest.[5] The ''unnecessary'' prong of the APA good cause provision covers amendments that are '' 'minor or merely technical' and of little public interest,''[6] or that involve ''routine determination[s], insignificant in nature and impact, and inconsequential to the industry . . . and to the public.''[7] This rule contains only a technical amendment: it merely resolves a potential ambiguity by clarifying that the DEA regulation[8] regarding amendments to and withdrawal of applications applies to both registration and registration renewal applications. DEA has always understood and applied the regulation at 21 CFR 1301.16(b) to include renewals. DEA has accordingly determined that notice and comment are not required.

Similarly, the APA provides that a delayed effective date is unnecessary when the agency finds good cause for dispensing with the delay. The APA's delayed-effective-date provision is intended ''to give affected parties time to adjust their behavior before the final rule takes effect.''[9] Here, regulated parties will not need any time to adjust their behavior to the changes made in this final rule because the rule does no more than ensure that the regulatory text of 21 CFR 1301.16(b) more clearly indicates the way that DEA has always understood and applied that provision.

In addition, the APA excepts from the requirements of notice and comment and a delayed effective date those rules that are non-substantive.[10] Substantive rules make ''substantive changes in prior regulations'' or ''create new law, rights, or duties.''[11] Here, as already explained, this final rule makes no substantive changes in DEA's regulations because this rule simply clarifies the way that 21 CFR 1301.16(b) has always been understood and applied.

Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14192 (Regulatory Review)

DEA has determined that this rulemaking is not a ''significant regulatory action'' under section 3(f) of Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review). Accordingly, this final rule has not been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review. This final rule was developed in accordance with section 1(b) of E.O. 12866, section 1(b) of E.O. 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review), and E.O. 14192 (Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation).

As stated above, this final rule is a technical amendment to clarify that the provision regarding amendments to and withdrawal of registration applications also applies to applications for registration renewal. DEA has always applied this provision to both new and renewal applications, and therefore, this final rule does not impose any new or substantive requirements on the public or DEA registrants. DEA anticipates that

[1] 21 U.S.C. 821, 827.

[2] 21 U.S.C. 871(b), 958(f).

[3] 28 CFR 0.100(b).

[4] 21 CFR 1301.16(b).

[5] 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B).

[6] *N.C. Growers' Ass'n, Inc.* v. *United Farm Workers,* 702 F.3d 755, 766 (4th Cir. 2012) (citation omitted).

[7] *Nat. Res. Def. Council* v. *Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin.,* 894 F.3d. 95, 114 (2d Cir. 2018) (citation omitted).

[8] 21 CFR 1301.16(b).

[9] *Riverbend Farms, Inc.* v. *Madigan,* 958 F.2d 1479, 1485 (9th Cir. 1992).

[10] 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), (d).

[11] *Minard Run Oil Co.* v. *U.S. Forest Serv.,* 670 F.3d 236, 255 (3d Cir. 2011), as amended (Mar. 7, 2012) (citation omitted).