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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 890

[Docket ID: OPM–2026–0002]

RIN 3206–AP08

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Verification Requirements for Family Member Coverage

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FEHB Protection Act of 2025 (FPA) requires OPM to issue regulations and implement a process to verify: The veracity of any qualifying life event (QLE) through which a health benefits plan enrollee seeks to add a member of family to their enrollment and that when an enrollee adds a family member to the health benefits plan, including during any open season, the individual is a qualified member of family. This final rule also clarifies responsibilities for initial family member eligibility determinations for the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This rule is effective on July 2, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louise Dyer Yinug, Senior Benefits Analyst, at (202) 972–0913. Sophia Iwanaga, Benefits Analyst, at (202) 936–2782.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Executive Summary

The FPA (Sec. 90101, Public Law 119–21, 139 Stat. 362) directs OPM to issue regulations and implement a process to verify: (1) that a member of family is eligible to participate as a covered family member, including during any open season; and (2) any QLE through which an Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) or PSHB plan enrollee seeks to add a member of family to their enrollment, by July 4, 2026. These regulations apply to both the FEHB and PSHB Programs. For clarity and brevity, this rulemaking uses ''FEHB Program'' to include both the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the Postal Service Health Benefits Program. The PSHB Program launched in 2025 as a separate Program within the FEHB Program and provides health benefits to Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and their covered family members.

In addition to the statutorily required elements, the rule is clarifying that OPM can authorize the employing office to determine family member eligibility for the PSHB Program.

B. Background

The FEHB Program was established in 1960 and is the largest employer-sponsored health insurance program in the United States. There are approximately 8.3 million covered individuals in the FEHB Program. Covered individuals include employees of the federal government, annuitants, covered family members, former spouses, and statutorily eligible groups enumerated in 5 U.S.C. 8901; and tribal employees of tribal employers, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 1647b. Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and their family members are eligible for health benefits under the PSHB Program pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8903c.

Covered Family Members

Per the FEHB statute at 5 U.S.C 8901(5), as adopted by reference in the PSHB statute at 5 U.S.C. 8903c(a)(13), and FEHB and PSHB regulations at 5 CFR 890.101, 890.302 and 5 CFR 890.1602, 890.1603, 890.1604 respectively, a covered family member means a member of the family of an enrollee who meets applicable eligibility requirements. This includes the enrollee's spouse and children under the age of 26. Covered children include children born within marriage, recognized natural children, adopted children, stepchildren, and foster children. A disabled child age 26 or older who is determined by OPM to be incapable of self-support because of a physical or mental disability that existed before their 26th birthday can be a covered family member.

As delineated in the *FEHB Handbook,* a grandchild is not an eligible family member unless the child qualifies as a foster child. (The FEHB Handbook is available at *https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/reference-materials/fehb-handbook.*) Other examples of family members who are not eligible for coverage under an employee or annuitant's enrollment include an enrollee's parents, former spouse, and domestic partner, even if they live with and are dependent upon the enrollee. A covered family member can be added during the initial opportunity to enroll, subsequent to a qualifying life event, such as birth or adoption of a child or marriage, or during any open season. Under certain circumstances outlined in 5 CFR part 890, subpart H *Benefits for Former Spouses,* former spouses may have their own FEHB enrollment, separate from the enrollment of the federal employee or annuitant to whom they were married.

Previous OPM Action on This Topic

There are several ways that ineligible family members become covered by FEHB plans. Some ineligible family members are added during open season, and OPM has not required verification of eligibility by the employing office. Some family members were once eligible as spouses or covered children, but lost eligibility due to divorce, aging out, or change in family status and were not removed from coverage.

OPM has addressed FEHB Program family member eligibility verification and removal in earlier rulemaking. On January 23, 2018, OPM issued a final rule titled, *Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Removal of Eligible and Ineligible Individuals from Existing Enrollments* (83 FR 3059). The rule provided a process for removal of certain individuals who are found not to be eligible as family members for FEHB enrollment. The processes in the rule apply to individuals for whom there is a failure to provide adequate documentation of eligibility when requested. The rule also allowed certain eligible family members to be removed from existing self and family or self plus one enrollments upon request. If appropriate, the enrollee can change from self and family or self plus one to a lower enrollment type. The enrollment type can be changed either during open season or subsequent to a QLE for enrollees paying for health benefits premiums on a pre-tax basis (also called premium conversion). Enrollees not

participating in premium conversion can change enrollment type at any time.

As explained in the 2023 interim final rule *Postal Service Reform Act: Establishment of the Postal Service Health Benefits Program* (88 FR 20383) all requirements for the FEHB Program apply to the PSHB Program, which began January 1, 2025, unless otherwise indicated through rulemaking.

Subsequent to the 2018 rulemaking, OPM issued several guidance documents for employing offices and carriers to further delineate disenrollment and removal procedures for ineligible individuals. Carrier Letter 2020–16 [1] provided guidance to carriers on (1) the process for requesting proof of family member eligibility for existing enrollments; (2) the documents that may be used as proof; and (3) the actions FEHB carriers can take based on an enrollee's or family member's response to a request for verification of eligibility. Carrier Letter 2022–15 [2] provided guidance to FEHB carriers on proactively removing covered children when they reach age 26, unless the child is determined to be incapable of self-support due to a disability that began before age 26. Benefits Administration Letter 20–203 [3] provided guidance to employing offices on (1) the process for requesting proof of family member eligibility for existing enrollments; (2) the documents that may be used as proof; and (3) the employing office actions that can be taken based on an employee's or family member's response to a request for verification of eligibility. (Carrier Letters and Benefits Administration Letters are available at *https://opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/carriers/fehb/* and *https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/carriers/pshb/*.)

The FPA also requires that OPM develop a process to disenroll or remove anyone from enrollment who is found to be ineligible for enrollment or coverage. Pursuant to subsection (f) of the FPA, OPM has reissued and reinforced guidance on disenrolling ineligible individuals. in Carrier Letter 2025–15 and Benefits Administration Letter 25–203.

[1] *https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/carriers/fehb/2020/2020-16.pdf.*

[2] *https://www.opm.gov/media/dykpowdh/carrier-letter-2022-15-removing-ineligible-children-from-federal-employee-health-benefits-plan-fehb-program-coverage-508-compliant.pdf.*

[3] *https://www.opm.gov/retirement-center/publications-forms/benefits-administration-letters/2020/20-203.pdf.*

Family Member Eligibility Verification Responsibilities

In addition to the regulatory requirements, the FEHB Handbook details the responsibilities of the employing office to verify eligibility of family members. For a newly added family member, the employing office must obtain proof of a family member's eligibility in two circumstances: during the initial opportunity to enroll and when an enrollee has any other qualifying life event. For a QLE, the employing office must require proof of family member eligibility for those that have not previously provided proof including a:

- spouse not verified within the last year;
- foster child; and
- disabled child age 26 or older who is incapable of self-support.

Acceptable documentation is listed in the FEHB Handbook and could include government-issued marriage certificates, Federal or state tax returns, or birth certificates. The employing office, OPM, or the carrier may disenroll or remove an individual from an enrollment if the enrollee fails to provide adequate documentation of the eligibility, per 5 CFR 890.308 and 890.1608. An enrollee or removed individual may request reconsideration of the decision to remove the individual from enrollment from the employing office or OPM within 60 days of the initial decision. That reconsideration is final.

C. Provisions of This Final Rule

This final rule builds on the 2018 rulemaking, which strengthened verification and removal processes. This rule implements the FPA by adding a new subparagraph (i) to § 890.302(a)(1) to require, rather than allow, enrollees to provide proof of eligibility to the employing office, the carrier, or OPM, as specified by OPM, when adding a family member to the enrollment. This proof will be required at any time that an enrollee seeks to add a family member to their enrollment, including during any open season, or for any QLE, including an initial opportunity to enroll. This goes beyond the current requirement, which allows employing offices, OPM, or the carrier to request proof at any time, but only requires such proof for a QLE, including the initial opportunity to enroll.

New subparagraph (ii) in § 890.302(a)(1) requires the enrollee to provide documentation verifying a QLE to an employing office, the carrier, or OPM, as specified by OPM, to add a family member to the enrollment. Once that information has been provided, OPM's existing guidance will ensure that the event is verified, in addition to verifying the eligibility of the added family member.

These new sections fulfill the statutory requirement for OPM to implement a process for verification of family member eligibility. Details of these processes, including responsibilities of the employing office, will continue to be published in the FEHB Handbook and updated as necessary.

Examples of acceptable eligibility documentation can be found in 5 CFR 890.308 and the FEHB Handbook and include:

- Government-issued marriage certificates
- Government-issued birth certificates
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- Paternity tests or other court-ordered documentation for parental support
- Certification of foster child status
- Final adoption certificate or decree
- Federal tax returns for dependent children or step-children under the age of 26
- Medical certification for adult disabled children incapable of self-support

In addition to the statutorily required provisions, OPM is amending § 890.1607, which addresses the entity responsible for family member eligibility verification for the PSHB Program. OPM's 2024 final rule titled, *Postal Service Health Benefits Program: Additional Requirements and Clarifications* (89 FR 85012) included § 890.1607(b)(2). Prior to the launch of the PSHB Program, USPS was responsible for family member eligibility verification for Postal employees, as all employing offices are for FEHB enrollments. This regulatory change is consistent with the Postal Service's past practice under the FEHB Program and aligns with the responsibilities of other employing offices.

D. Expected Impact of This Rulemaking

1. Statement of Need

OPM is required by section 90101 of Public Law 119–21 to issue this regulatory action. The statutory provision directs that by July 4, 2026, the Director of OPM must ''issue regulations and implement a process to verify'' (1) the veracity of any QLE through which an enrollee in the Program seeks to add a member of the enrollee's family to a health benefits plan under the Program; and (2) that, when an enrollee seeks to add a member of his or her family to the health benefits plan, the individual added is a

qualifying member of family with respect to the enrollee. The statute requires this process to apply not only during a QLE but also during any open season.

This regulation is necessary to address the presence of ineligible family members covered by the FEHB Program. OPM addressed coverage of ineligible family members through issuing regulations to provide a new process for identifying and removing ineligible family members from coverage in 2018. This final rule builds on and strengthens that 2018 rule.

Ineligible family member coverage was highlighted in a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report (*https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105222*) in late 2022. In response to that report, OPM concurs that there are ineligible family members participating in the Program and more can be done to identify and remove them from coverage. That report made several recommendations, many of which OPM concurred with and implemented. While this work progresses, OPM is also preparing for the family member eligibility audit required by the FPA. That audit is a critical piece of addressing ineligible family member coverage and restoring program integrity, but the economic effects of the audit are not included in this rule since it is not affected by this rule.

2. Summary of Impacts

Since some FEHB and PSHB QLE and family member eligibility verifications are required by current OPM guidance and rules, OPM expects this regulation to have an impact below the threshold for economic significance. However, given the importance of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse through removing ineligible family members, this rule is significant on policy grounds.

This final rule also includes a change specific to the PSHB Program. This rule clarifies that responsibility may reside with OPM or with the employing office as specified by OPM. This revision is not expected to result in any significant impact as it is consistent with the Postal Service's past practice under the FEHB Program and will align with the responsibilities of other employing offices.

3. Regulatory Baseline

The baseline for this regulation is the FEHB and PSHB Programs as currently administered. Since 2018, OPM has strengthened the verification process, which historically has been largely delegated to carriers and to employing offices. In 2025, OPM began requiring agencies to conduct a self-audit of 10% of family member eligibility for changes made during open season. Due to high transactions in open season 2024 and staffing challenges in 2025, many agencies did not reach the 10% threshold or did not report when OPM requested audit information.

4. Costs

The FPA and this regulation mandate verification of the eligibility of all family members and all QLEs for any enrollment, including any open season. Agencies may see cost increases if additional employees are required to conduct the statutorily mandated verification.

Congress authorized $66 million over ten years for OPM to carry out the requirements of the FPA, including the family member eligibility audit.

There is a time cost for enrollees and family members associated with this rule. Assuming that it would take on average half an hour per family member to gather and upload supporting documents such as marriage and birth certificates, enrollees would spend about 50,000 hours annually complying with the requirements of the rule. A few more complex cases may require additional documents and communication, *e.g.,* to obtain updated proof for children incapable of self-support and communicate it to employing offices, OPM, or carriers, but many others will take less time.

This rule requires that all newly added family members are verified. Member cost estimates assume an average hourly rate of $52 [4] in end of year 2025 dollars adjusted with a nominal growth rate of 2% over the following decade. These do not explicitly include the costs of obtaining certificates of birth, marriage, and other supporting documents from authoritative sources. See Table 1.

TABLE 1—NET PRESENT VALUE AND ANNUALIZED COSTS

	3% Discount rate		7% Discount rate	
	NPV (million $)	Annualized amount (million $)	NPV (million $)	Annualized amount (million $)
Agency Costs	20.9	2.4	17.3	2.5
Member Verification Costs	20.9	2.4	17.3	2.5

5. Transfers

Family members found ineligible will have to pay for alternative coverage or go without coverage. Some individuals who are not enrolled in FEHB coverage may be eligible for public insurance programs such as Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Medicare. Some family members may be eligible to purchase coverage on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Exchanges with federal advance premium tax credits that may cover all or a portion of an enrollee's premiums. That coverage would transfer costs from the FEHB Program to other publicly or privately funded health insurance coverage.

Premium Savings

The information reported by agencies to OPM so far indicates that, of the more than 19,000 cases reviewed in 2024, almost 2% of FEHB and PSHB family members have been confirmed to be ineligible, with up to 4.36% of family members that could be deemed ineligible due to non-responses or insufficient documentation. More children (2.2%) than spouses (1.66%) were confirmed to be ineligible or could end up being deemed ineligible (4.67% vs 3.92%).

Because the information reported by agencies to OPM is a sample with some degree of uncertainty that may not be entirely representative of the underlying population, OPM considered estimates using somewhat wider bounds ranging from 2% to 5% for ineligible children and 1.5% to 4.5% for spouses. The median projections of 3.5% ineligible

[4] The average federal employee works 2,087 hours annually and earned $106,870 in 2024 based on the latest available Sep 2024 data, which translates into $51 average hourly rate in 2024.

children and 3% ineligible spouses are in line with findings from audits performed on state health insurance programs and in the private market.

In 2025, there were approximately 4 million family members in FEHB and PSHB, about 2.1 million children and 1.9 million spouses. OPM assumes that approximately 100,000 family members would be verified annually—63,000 children and 38,000 spouses. OPM estimates that the annual premium cost for FEHB and PSHB family members with claims was $5,510 for children and $12,461 for spouses with claims. The incentives are stronger to fraudulently cover ineligible individuals when their health care needs and costs are higher, but without other information, savings estimates conservatively assume that the average premium cost for ineligible family members with claims are the same as for eligible family members.

Based on the assumptions above, OPM's central projection is that in 2025 total FEHB and PSHB premium rates would have been 0.018% lower without those ineligible family members, with a low of 0.010% and a high of 0.027%.

In Table 2, OPM applied these percentages to estimated annual premiums calculated using a nominal medical inflation rate of 6.5% per year, higher than the assumed 3.5% inflation for the next decade. Total FEHB and PSHB premiums were approximately $72.7 billion in FY 2025.

Based on the parameters above, OPM estimated low, medium, and high net present values (NPV) and annualized amounts of FEHB and PSHB premium savings, and agency costs over the next decade, separately for 3% and 7% annual real discount rates. The results are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 2—NET PRESENT VALUE AND ANNUALIZED PREMIUMS

Premium Savings	3% Discount rate		7% Discount rate	
	NPV (million $)	Annualized Amount (million $)	NPV (million $)	Annualized Amount (million $)
High	225.5	26.4	182.0	25.9
Medium	153.7	18.0	124.1	17.7
Low	81.9	9.6	66.1	9.4

6. Benefits

The benefits of this rule include more appropriate use of federal dollars and a more sustainable FEHB Program. This rule will help direct premium dollars to support eligible individuals only, thereby improving the integrity of the program.

OPM estimates the net present value (NPV) of premium savings over the next decade to be $153.7 million and $124.1 million at real discount rates of 3% and 7% per year. The corresponding annualized amounts are $18 million and $17.7 million, about 70 percent of which is paid by the government. The NPV of agency verification costs over the next decade are estimated at $20.9 million and $17.3 million for real discount rates of 3% and 7% per year, with corresponding annualized amounts of $2.4 million and $2.5 million. The NPV of member costs over the next decade are estimated at $20.9 million and $17.3 million for real discount rates of 3% and 7% per year, with corresponding annualized amounts of $2.4 million and $2.5 million.

High and low estimates are also calculated using the wider bounds for estimates of the true percentages of ineligible children and spouses in the FEHB and PSHB population, and this range is described in the preceding tables.

Some of the ineligible family members who are not covered by FEHB or PSHB may qualify and enroll in other federal and state health insurance programs, affecting federal, state, and personal budgets. OPM lacks data on effects along these lines.

7. Alternatives

There are no feasible alternatives to regulation, as OPM is required by law to issue these regulations. As an alternative to the limited approach in this final rule, OPM could require regular reverification of all enrollees and covered family members. The rule does not include such changes for several reasons. First, OPM will have an opportunity to consider such changes through notice and comment rulemaking in the FEHB Enrollment Integrity regulation (RIN 3206–AO93) planned for 2026. Such major policy and operational changes would be issued after a full notice and comment process to be sure all viewpoints are considered.

Second, OPM is actively planning the family member audit required by the FEHB Protection Act. OPM expects to use knowledge leveraged from the planning and execution of the audit to inform any family member reverification process in the future.

E. Regulatory Compliance

1. Administrative Procedure Act

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) provides that traditional notice and comment procedures are not required when, as relevant here, the agency for good cause finds that following those procedures would be impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). These exceptions are also available in OPM rulemakings. *See* 5 U.S.C. 1105. OPM finds that notice and comment is unnecessary because OPM lacks discretion in revising its regulations to require verification of enrollment eligibility and QLEs. Furthermore, delaying this final rule to allow public comment would be contrary to the public interest and is also unnecessary as Federal law already prohibits the coverage of ineligible individuals. This rule does not change any eligibility criteria or the Government's ability to remove ineligible individuals from coverage. Similarly, the rule does not change an individual's obligation to provide requested documentation to support a claim of eligibility. Instead, the rule only updates the circumstances under which the Government is required to verify eligibility as required by statute. Accordingly, issuing these regulations as a final rule allows OPM to promptly pursue the Administration's goal of reducing fraud, waste, and abuse in public programs ensuring the lawful use of taxpayer dollars. The regulation is part of the Administration's approach to addressing the program integrity issues raised by GAO regarding ineligible family member enrollments. It is in the public interest to ensure taxpayer dollars for premium payments are only used for eligible and legitimate FEHB enrollees. Finally, this rule revises regulatory text from a relatively recent rulemaking addressing roles and responsibilities between OPM and the

employing office in the PSHB Program. This revision would not benefit from public comment as it is a minor technical change concerning government operations.

2. Regulatory Review

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget has designated this as a significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866 section 3(f). Accordingly, OPM has examined the impact of this rule as required by Executive Orders 12866 and 13563, which direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public, health, and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). A regulatory impact analysis must be prepared for rules that have an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities. This rulemaking is not likely to reach that threshold. This rule is not an E.O. 14192 regulatory action because it does not impose any more than de minimis regulatory costs relative to estimated federal budgetary savings.

3. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Director of OPM certifies this rulemaking will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because the affected entities are federal agencies, employees, annuitants, and carriers, rather than small entities.

4. Federalism

This rulemaking will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 13132, the Director of OPM certifies that this rulemaking does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

5. Civil Justice Reform

This rulemaking meets the applicable standards set forth in section 3(a) and (b)(2) of Executive Order 12988.

6. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) requires that agencies assess anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule that would impose spending costs on State, local, and Tribal governments in the aggregate, or on the private sector, in any 1 year of $100 million in 1995 dollars, updated annually for inflation. In 2025, that threshold was approximately $206 million. This rulemaking will not result in the expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, in excess of the threshold. Thus, no written assessment of unfunded mandates is required.

7. Congressional Review Act

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has determined that this is not a ''major rule'' as defined by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 804(2)). OPM will submit to Congress and the Comptroller General of the United States a report regarding the issuance of this action.

8. Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (PRA), unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

This rule is tied to a current OPM approved information collection 3206–0160 *SF 2809 Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Election Form; OPM 2809 Health Benefits Election Form.* Access to the current version of the collection—including all supporting materials—can be found at *www.reginfo.gov* by searching for the collection by the OMB Control Number or the title. The combined total burden hour estimate for the two forms is estimated to be 20,667 hours for 48,000 responses.

OPM has published a 60-day notice of updates to this information collection at 91 FR 32135 on May 29, 2026. This notice proposes updating the information collection and calls for comment.

A list of routine uses associated with these forms can be found in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice (SORN), OPM/Central-23 FEHB Program Enrollment Records, available at 89 FR 72902 (September 6, 2024) at *https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2024-20061.*

9. Severability

If any of the provisions of this final rule is held to be invalid or unenforceable by its terms, or as applied to any person or circumstance, it shall be severable from the remaining sections and shall not affect the remainder thereof or the application of the provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other dissimilar circumstances.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 890

Administrative practice and procedure, Government employees, Health facilities, Health insurance, Health professions, Indians, Military personnel, Postal Service, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Retirement.

Signing Statement

The Director of OPM, Scott Kupor, reviewed and approved this document and has authorized the undersigned to electronically sign and submit this document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Office of Personnel Management.

Jerson Matias,

Federal Register Liaison.

For reasons stated in the preamble, OPM amends 5 CFR part 890 as follows:

PART 890—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

■ 1. The authority citation for part 890 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8913. Sec. 890.102 also issued under sections 11202(f), 11232(e), and 11246(b) of Pub. L. 105–33, 111 Stat. 251. Sec. 890.111 also issued under 36 U.S.C. 5522. Sec. 890.112 also issued under 2 U.S.C. 2051. Sec. 890.113 also issued under section 1110 of Pub. L. 116–92, 133 Stat. 1198 (5 U.S.C. 8702 note). Sec. 890.301 also issued under 26 U.S.C. 9801. Sec. 890.302(b) also issued under 42 U.S.C. 300gg–14. Sec. 890.803 also issued under 50 U.S.C. 3516 (formerly 50 U.S.C. 403p); 22 U.S.C. 4069c and 4069c–1. Subpart L also issued under section 599C of Pub. L. 101–513, 104 Stat. 2064 (5 U.S.C. 5561 note). Subpart M also issued under 10 U.S.C. 1108; 25 U.S.C. 1647b. Subpart P also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8903c.

Subpart C—Enrollment

■ 2. Amend § 890.302 by revising paragraph (a)(1) to read as follows:

§ 890.302 Coverage of family members.

(a)(1) *Enrollment.* An enrollment for self plus one includes the enrollee and one eligible family member. An enrollment for self and family includes all family members who are eligible to be covered by the enrollment except as

provided in § 890.308(h). Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, no employee, former employee, annuitant, child or former spouse may enroll or be covered as a family member if he or she is already covered under another person's self plus one or self and family enrollment in the FEHB Program.

(i) *Verifying family member eligibility.* The enrollee must provide proof of family member eligibility to the employing office, the carrier, or OPM, as specified by OPM, at the time a family member is added to an enrollment, including during an initial opportunity to enroll, any open season, due to a qualifying life event, or at any other time a family member is added. Proof of family member eligibility must also be provided upon request to the carrier, the employing office, or OPM as provided in §§ 890.308(e) or (f) and 890.1608.

(ii) *Verifying a qualifying life event.* When an enrollee seeks to add a family member based on a qualifying life event, the enrollee must provide proper documentation to the employing office, the carrier, or OPM, as specified by OPM, to verify the veracity of any qualifying life event before a covered family member may be added to the enrollment. Qualifying life events are described in § 892.101 of this chapter or § 890.301.

* * * * *

Subpart P—Postal Service Health Benefits Program

■ 3. Amend § 890.1607 by revising paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) to read as follows:

§ 890.1607 Initial decision and reconsideration.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, employing offices are responsible for initial decisions concerning PSHB eligibility for Postal Service employees or Postal Service annuitants and for verification that an individual is an eligible member of family under § 890.302.

(2) OPM is responsible for initial decisions concerning:

(i) Postal Service annuitants or their family members who are not required to enroll in VA's system of patient enrollment referred to in 38 U.S.C. 1705(a), and who must provide documentation from the VA under § 890.1604(d)(2) indicating they satisfy the requirements for an exception described in § 890.1604(c)(1)(iv) or (c)(2)(iii); and

(ii) Postal Service annuitants or their family members who must provide documentation from the Indian Health Service under § 890.1604(d)(3) indicating they satisfy the requirements for an exception described in § 890.1604(c)(1)(v) or (c)(2)(iv).

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 2026–11022 Filed 5–29–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6325–63–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

7 CFR Part 1400

[Docket ID FSA–2026–0100]

RIN 0560–AI86

Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule revises the payment limitation and payment eligibility regulations to conform with provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). This rule also makes additional changes to those regulations to improve program administration and clarify and update existing provisions.

DATES: This rule is effective on June 2, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Csutoras; telephone: (717) 893–0963; or email: *Rebecca.Csutoras@usda.gov.* Individuals with disabilities who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY mode)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Background

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed into law H.R. 1 (Pub. L. 119–21), also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). This rule amends 7 CFR part 1400 to implement payment limitation changes made by OBBBA regarding equitable treatment of certain entities and an exception to the average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation for certain programs. In addition to the payment limitation changes addressed in this rule, OBBBA increased the payment limitations for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs and mandated annual increases to those limits based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. Those changes were implemented through a final rule published on January 12, 2026 (91 FR 1043). This rule also makes discretionary changes to the payment limitation and payment eligibility regulations to improve program administration and clarify and update existing provisions.

II. Qualified Pass-Through Entities

Section 10306 of OBBBA amended Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308) to provide equitable treatment of certain entities under the provisions for payment limitations. Payment limitations are the maximum amount that a person or legal entity can receive for any crop year, directly or indirectly, under certain CCC, FSA, and NRCS programs, and payments to legal entities are tracked (''attributed'') through four levels of ownership (7 U.S.C. 1308(e)(3)). Attribution of payments through four levels of ownership of legal entities is applied according to 7 U.S.C. 1308(e) and 7 CFR 1400.105. When a legal entity is a payment applicant, then the entity itself (the ''payment entity'') is attributed the full payment amount and all owners in the first three member levels are attributed an amount equal to their indirect ownership share in the payment entity. In this way, payments are limited to eligible participants comprising the payment entity and owners through the fourth level of ownership. Owners at the member level may be persons or other legal entities, including qualified pass-through entities.

Prior to the changes discussed below, only joint ventures and general partnerships (''joint operations'') were allowed to receive payments up to the amount determined by multiplying the applicable payment limitation for a

program by the number of persons or legal entities that comprise the ownership of that joint venture or general partnership. Other types of legal entities were allowed to receive payments up to the amount of a single payment limitation, regardless of the number of persons or legal entities that comprised the ownership.

Section 10306(a)(1)(B) of OBBBA, which amends section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985, added the new defined term ''Qualified pass-through entity.'' Section 10306(b) of OBBBA also amended requirements relating to the attribution of payments by removing references to ''Joint Ventures and General Partnerships'' and replacing it with the newly defined term ''Qualified pass-through entity.'' (7 U.S.C. 1308(e)(3)(B)(ii)). Qualified pass-through entities, as amended by and defined under OBBBA, include joint ventures and general partnerships. However, the term also includes: (A) a partnership (within the meaning of subchapter K of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [26 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*]); (B) an S corporation (as defined in section 1361 of that Code); and (C) a limited liability company that does not affirmatively elect to be treated as a corporation. Sections 10306 and 10307 of OBBBA then updated the language regarding requirements for attribution of payments and payment limitations to include ''Qualified-pass through entities.'' Thus, the interpretation that previously applied only to joint ventures and general partnerships now applies to qualified pass-through entities as amended and defined by OBBBA.

In alignment with OBBBA, this rule defines ''qualified pass-through entity'' in § 1400.3 to mean:

(1) A partnership within the meaning of subchapter K of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*). Partnership is defined in 26 U.S.C. 761 to include a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture, or other unincorporated organization through or by means of which any business, financial operation, or venture is carried on, and which is not, a corporation or a trust or estate. In simplified terms, this means a business entity with two or more members that is recognized as a separate entity for federal tax purposes and is not classified as a corporation, trust, or estate under the Internal Revenue Code;

(2) An S corporation as defined in 26 U.S.C. 1361(a);

(3) A limited liability company (LLC) that does not affirmatively elect to be treated as a corporation for federal tax purposes; and

(4) A joint venture or general partnership.

This rule amends the payment limitation provisions of subpart B and the payment eligibility provisions of subpart C as described below. This rule also updates references that apply to joint operations throughout part 1400 to specify that those references are now applicable to qualified pass-through entities. For example, CCC is updating the definitions of ''attribution'' and ''farming operation'' to replace references to ''joint operations'' with ''qualified pass-through entities'' to align with OBBBA.

A. Payment Limitation

As required by Section 10307 of OBBBA (7 U.S.C. 1308), maximum payment limitation amounts for qualified pass-through entities will be determined in a manner consistent with the limitation applied to joint ventures and general partnerships prior to this rule. Specifically, a qualified pass-through entity's maximum payment limitation will be equal to the applicable announced payment limitation times the number of persons or entities, other than qualified pass-through entities, that comprise the ownership of the qualified pass-through entity (7 U.S.C. 1308(e)(3)(B)(ii)).

For example, if the program payment limitation is $125,000 and an S corporation has two individual owners (shareholders), the program payment limitation is multiplied by two, resulting in a maximum payment limitation for the S corporation of $250,000. Prior to the change required by OBBBA, the S corporation would have been capped at one maximum payment limitation, which was $125,000. To illustrate further, if a qualified pass-through entity, such as an LLC that has not affirmatively elected to be taxed as a corporation, has two general partnership owners (partners) and each general partnership has two individual owners (partners), the embedded general partnerships are bypassed and the maximum payment limitation for the LLC will be multiplied by four, resulting in a maximum payment limitation of $500,000. Prior to this change, the LLC would have been subject to one payment limitation of $125,000.

Accordingly, this final rule amends § 1400.106(b) to implement this change to the payment limitation calculation for all qualified pass-through entities beginning with program year 2026.

B. Payment Eligibility

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity shall be ''actively engaged in farming'' (7 U.S.C. 1308–1(b)(2)). This requirement is currently implemented in USDA regulations at 7 CFR part 1400, subpart C.

Section 10306(c)(1) of OBBBA extended this requirement to a qualified pass-through entity. A qualified pass-through entity shall be considered as ''actively engaged in farming'' if it separately makes a significant contribution (based on the total value of the farming operation) of capital, equipment and land, the stockholders or members collectively make a significant contribution of personal labor or active personal management to the operation, the share of the profits or losses from the farming operation is commensurate with the contributions to the farming operation and the contributions are at risk (7 U.S.C. 1308–1(b)(2)). Section 10306(c)(2) of OBBBA also provides that the partners or members of the qualified pass-through entity who make a significant contribution of personal labor or active personal management shall be considered actively engaged in farming if the qualified pass-through entity ''separately makes a significant contribution (based on the total value of the farming operation involved) of capital, equipment, or land'' and the contribution is determined commensurate and at risk.

Accordingly, this rule amends the ''actively engaged in farming'' provisions to provide consistent requirements for all qualified pass-through entities. To be determined ''actively engaged in farming,'' members of qualified pass-through entities will be required to meet applicable payment eligibility requirements including contributions of capital, equipment, land, active personal labor, and active personal management as provided in this rule (§ 1400.203). To meet this requirement, contributions must be significant, commensurate with the members' share of the farming operation, and must be at risk of loss. The definition of a ''contribution'' refers to the provision of capital, equipment, land, active personal labor, or active personal management made with the expectation of receiving a benefit that depends solely on the success of the farming operation. This rule updates §§ 1400.201 and 1400.203 to allow members of qualified pass-through entities to include compensated labor or management contributions towards meeting the actively engaged in farming requirement. Previously, contributions associated with guaranteed payments, such as salaries, were not credited when determining whether a member is actively engaged in farming. This update provides consistent treatment of

member contributions across all entity types.

C. Certification of Average AGI

Certification of compliance with the average AGI limitations applies to a person or legal entity. (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(c)). Historically, joint operations do not certify compliance at the entity level due to the pass-through nature of income for those entities. Instead, the certification requirement for joint operations was met by requiring certification at the member level.

When Section 10306(a)(1)(B) of OBBBA added the new term ''Qualified pass-through entity,'' it included ''a joint venture or general partnership'' in the meaning of the term. Consistent with the historical interpretation discussed above, for program year 2026 and subsequent years, qualified pass-through entities are not required to certify compliance with the average AGI limitation at the entity level (§ 1400.502(a)). Members, through the fourth level of ownership, other than qualified pass-through entities embedded in the ownership structure of other legal entities, remain required to certify compliance. For example, if an S corporation has two individual owners, only the two individual owners must certify compliance. Prior to this change, the S corporation was required to certify compliance at the entity level in addition to the two individual members. To illustrate further, if a qualified pass-through entity Limited Liability Company (LLC) has two general partnership owners and each general partnership has two individual owners, the four individual owners at the third level of ownership must certify compliance (but not the two general partnerships). Prior to this change, the LLC and the four individual owners were required to certify compliance, and the two general partnerships were exempt (as is the case under OBBBA).

D. Implementation

The changes for qualified pass-through entities will be effective beginning with the 2026 program year. For the purpose of administering the direct attribution provisions of § 1400.105, the applicable date for determining ownership interest for qualified pass-through entities for the 2026 program year will be September 15, 2026.

OBBBA was passed on July 4, 2025, and funding for some 2025 and prior year programs has been expended. Applying this change retroactively to 2025 or earlier program years would result in an added administrative and participant burden and inconsistency between programs. Current program participants that are LLCs or corporations must file updated farm operating plans with FSA for program year 2026, or later, to declare their operation type as one of the existing types or one of the new qualified pass-through entity types (§ 1400.100). The updated certifications will be effective for the program year for which the certification is made and subsequent program years and will not be retroactive. To implement this change, CCC is defining ''program year'' to mean the program year as defined by the applicable program. For the purpose of implementing payment limitation and payment eligibility absent a specific program requirement, the program year aligns with the fiscal year.

III. Exception to the Average AGI Limitation

In general, as discussed above, a person or legal entity is not eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, certain program payments or benefits described in § 1400.1 if the average AGI of the person or legal entity exceeds $900,000 for the 3 taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year. Section 10308 of OBBBA (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) creates an exception to this limitation for an ''excepted payment or benefit,'' which includes payments or benefits for:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP),
- Livestock Forage Assistance Program (LFP),
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP),
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP),
- Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and
- Conservation benefits under Title II of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, Title II of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Title II of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Title II of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 received on, or after, October 1, 2024.

The exception can be requested by participants who provide an acceptable certification, discussed below, that at least 75 percent of the participants' average gross income was derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities. For both the average AGI and the average gross income calculations, participants must use income as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or as would have been reported had a Federal tax return been required, for the 3 taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year. For example, to certify for 2026, a participant would use information from tax years 2022, 2023, and 2024. Acceptable certifications must be accompanied by a verification statement signed by a licensed certified public accountant (CPA) duly qualified to practice as a CPA in any state, territory, or possession of the United States, including a Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia; an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any state, territory, or possession of the United States, including a Commonwealth or the District of Columbia; or an individual who has been authorized to practice before the IRS in accordance with 31 CFR part 10. Individuals enrolled as agents pursuant to 31 CFR part 10 (enrolled agents), who are not currently under suspension or disbarment from practice before the IRS may practice before the IRS. . CCC is adding enrolled agents as an acceptable third-party to complete certifications of income from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities to improve participant ability to provide required certifications. However, for individual taxpayers filing joint tax returns, Congress limited such certifications to an attorney or CPA (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(a)(3); § 1400.501(a)(2)). Accordingly, certifications of average AGI for joint tax return filers specifying the manner in which their income would have been declared and reported if they had filed two separate returns continue to be accepted from only a CPA or attorney. This rule amends § 1400.504 to include the exception and provide the requirements for the certification.

To implement this change, CCC is defining ''income derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities'' in § 1400.3. This definition includes the sources of income previously included in the definition of ''income derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations'' used in recent programs, and adds agritourism and direct-to-consumer marketing of agricultural products to align with OBBBA. The term ''income derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations'' has been used in recent *ad hoc* disaster assistance programs for the purpose of determining whether an applicant is eligible for an increased payment limitation. For example, see the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program regulation at 7 CFR 760.2202, and the Emergency Livestock Relief Program 2023 and 2024 regulation at § 760.2002. The definition no longer includes the previous limitation on inclusion of income from the sale of equipment used for agricultural purposes; therefore, a

participant is not required to realize at least 66.66 percent of their income from other listed sources before being able to include income from the sale of agricultural equipment. This change is made to more closely align FSA determinations of income with current IRS requirements and to remove the burden on participants resulting from the inequity in the classification of this income. CCC is also adding income from the trade of equipment to the definition, as trading used equipment when purchasing new equipment is a common business practice.

IV. Other Changes

In addition to the changes described above, this rule makes the following discretionary changes:

- Allows State Executive Directors to designate review teams within their respective State to ensure the 60-day timeline is met for initial payment eligibility determinations for qualified pass-through entities with 6 or more members (§ 1400.2(g));
- Establishes June 1 as the date by which foreign person status is determined for the program year (§ 1400.401(b)(2)); and
- Amends the notification of interest requirements to clarify that legal entities and joint operations must provide the name, address, and ownership share of all interest holders in the legal entity, regardless of ownership level (§ 1400.10(e)).

V. Severability

The modifications to the payment limitation and eligibility provisions authorized by OBBBA are distinct and severable from one another, as well as from the minor administrative changes and updates to the payment limitation and eligibility regulations. Each provision is designed to function independently, ensuring that the rule as a whole remains effective and aligned with the agency's intent, even if certain provisions were to be invalidated.

VI. Regulatory Analyses

A. Effective Date, Notice and Comment, and Paperwork Reduction Act

As specified in 7 U.S.C. 9091(c)(2), the regulations to implement payment limitation and payment eligibility are exempt from:

- The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), and
- The notice and comment provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553.

Further, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA, 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)) provides that the provisions requiring notice and comment and a 30-day delay in the effective date do not apply when the rule involves specified actions, including matters relating to benefits or contracts. This rule governs payments to agricultural producers and therefore falls within the benefits exemption.

In addition, 7 U.S.C. 9091(c)(3) directs the Secretary to use the authority provided in 5 U.S.C. 808 of the Congressional Review Act (CRA), which would ordinarily necessitate delaying its effective date for 60 days (5 U.S.C. 801(a)(3)(A)). The CRA, at 5 U.S.C. 808(2), allows an agency to make such regulations effective immediately if the agency finds there is good cause to do so. USDA has determined that such good cause exists here. This rule is implementing mandatory requirements of the OBBBA, and the regulatory changes included in this rule are necessary to administer CCC programs that help the beneficiaries of those programs sustain their normal business operations. As a result, USDA finds that notice and public procedure are contrary to the public interest. Therefore, USDA is not required to delay the effective date for 60 days from the date of publication to allow for Congressional review. Accordingly, this rule is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

This rule is exempt from the regulatory analysis requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA) because it involves matters relating to benefits. The requirements for the regulatory flexibility analysis in 5 U.S.C. 603 and 604 are specifically tied to the requirement for a proposed rule by section 553 or any other law; in addition, the definition of rule in 5 U.S.C. 601 is tied to the publication of a proposed rule.

B. Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14192

Executive Order 12866, ''Regulatory Planning and Review,'' and Executive Order 13563, ''Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review,'' direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). Executive Order 13563 emphasized the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. Executive Order 14192, ''Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation,'' announced the Administration policy to significantly reduce the private expenditures required to comply with Federal regulations to secure America's economic prosperity and national security and the highest possible quality of life for each citizen and to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on the American people. In line with the Executive Order requirements, the Agency chose this regulatory approach, which implements mandatory provisions of the OBBBA and clarifies and simplifies program requirements, to maximize benefits and minimize burden on American producers. This rule is not an Executive Order 14192 regulatory action because it does not impose any more than de minimis regulatory costs.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated this rule as significant under Executive Order 12866, and therefore, OMB has reviewed this rule. The costs and benefits of this rule are summarized below. The full CBA is available on *regulations.gov.*

C. Cost Benefit Analysis Summary

Prior to OBBBA, farms operated as LLCs or S corporations were treated as a single ''person'' for payment limitation purposes. As a result, a farming operation owned by multiple family members under one LLC was capped at a single (often, $125,000) payment limit. With OBBBA, LLCs and S corporations are now treated as ''pass-through entities'' for the purposes of payment limits. This allows each member of the entity who is ''actively engaged in farming'' to qualify for their own individual payment limit. This change is projected to increase outlays by $597 million over 10 years.

This rule also makes a discretionary change to permit members of a general partnership or joint venture to receive a salary and qualify the farming operation for a payment limit; prior, salaried members of these two entity types could not qualify for farm program payments. This provision is not expected to significantly change outlays because many general partnerships and joint ventures added an ownership layer prior to this change, allowing them to receive payment even though the members were salaried.

In general, a person or legal entity is not eligible to receive payments if the average AGI of the person or legal entity exceeds $900,000 for the 3 taxable years preceding the immediately preceding tax year. OBBBA creates an exception for ELAP, LFP, LIP, TAP, and NAP if the producer can demonstrate that at least 75 percent of their income is from agriculture. This change is expected to

increase outlays by $267 million over 10 years.

In total, this rule is expected to increase outlays by $864 million over 10 years (or $86.4 million annually).

D. Environmental Review

The environmental impacts have been considered in a manner consistent with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321–4347) and the USDA regulation for compliance with NEPA (7 CFR part 1b).

This rule implements primarily mandatory changes to payment limitation and payment eligibility provisions that are required by the OBBBA, with limited discretionary aspects that do not have the potential to impact the human environment as they are administrative. Accordingly, these discretionary aspects are covered by the FSA Categorical Exclusions specified in 7 CFR 1b.4(c)(16)(ix) that applies to safety net programs and § 1b.(c)(16)(vii) that applies to price support programs.

No Extraordinary Circumstances (§ 1b.3(f)) exist because these are administrative payment programs. As such, the implementation of the payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions do not constitute major Federal actions that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively. Therefore, FSA will not prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for this action and, consistent with § 1b.3(g), this document serves as the programmatic finding of applicability and no extraordinary circumstance (FANEC) for this Federal action.

E. Executive Order 13175

This rule has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 13175, ''Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.'' Executive Order 13175 requires Federal agencies to consult and coordinate with Tribes on a Government-to-Government basis on policies that have Tribal implications, including regulations, legislative comments or proposed legislation, and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes.

USDA has assessed the impact of this rule on Indian Tribes and determined that this rule does not, to our knowledge, have Tribal implications that required Tribal consultation at this time. If a Tribe requests consultation, the USDA Farm Service Agency will work with the FSA Federal Preservation Officer, who will engage the Office of Tribal Relations as needed, to ensure meaningful consultation is provided.

F. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA, Pub. L. 104–4) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their regulatory actions of State, local, and Tribal governments or the private sector. Agencies generally must prepare a written statement, including cost benefit analysis, for proposed and final rules with Federal mandates that may result in expenditures of $100 million or more in any 1 year for State, local or Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or to the private sector. UMRA generally requires agencies to consider alternatives and adopt the more cost effective or least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule. This rule contains no Federal mandates, as defined in Title II of UMRA, for State, local and Tribal governments or the private sector. Therefore, this rule is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of UMRA.

G. E-Government Act Compliance

FSA is committed to complying with the E-Government Act of 2002, to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.

Federal Assistance Programs

The titles and numbers of the Federal assistance programs, as found in the Assistance Listing, to which this document applies are:

10.051—Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments;

10.069—Conservation Reserve Program;

10.088—Livestock Indemnity Program;

10.089—Livestock Forage Disaster Program;

10.091—Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program;

10.092—Tree Assistance Program;

10.113—Agriculture Risk Coverage;

10.112—Price Loss Coverage;

10.451—Noninsured Assistance;

10.912—Environmental Quality Incentives Program; and

10.917—Agricultural Management Assistance.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1400

Agriculture, Grant programs—agriculture, Loan programs—agriculture, Natural resources, Price support programs.

For the reasons discussed above, CCC amends the regulations in 7 CFR part 1400 as follows:

PART 1400—PAYMENT LIMITATION AND PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1400 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1308, 1308–1, 1308–2, 1308–3, 1308–3a, 1308–4, and 1308–5; and Title I, Pub. L. 115–123.

Subpart A—General Provisions

■ 2. Revise § 1400.2(g) to read as follows.

§ 1400.2 Administration.

* * * * *

(g) Initial determinations concerning the provisions of this part will be made by the FSA State office or a review team designated by the FSA State Executive Director with respect to any farm operating plan that is for a qualified pass-through entity with six or more members.

* * * * *

■ 3. Amend § 1400.3 as follows:
■ a. Add the definition of ''Agritourism'' in alphabetical order;
■ b. In the definition of ''Attribution'', remove the words ''legal entity, joint venture, or general partnership'' and add '' legal entity or qualified pass-through entity'' in their place;
■ c. Add the definition of ''Enrolled agent'' in alphabetical order;
■ d. In the definition of ''Farming operation'', remove the words ''joint operations'' and add ''qualified pass-through entities'' in their place;
■ e. Add the definitions of ''Income derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities'', ''Program year'', and ''Qualified pass-through entity'' in alphabetical order.

The additions read as follows.

§ 1400.3 Definitions.

* * * * *

Agritourism means a form of commercial, recreational, or educational enterprise that links agricultural production and processing with tourism to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and educating visitors while generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner.

* * * * *

Enrolled agent means an individual enrolled as an agent in accordance with

part 10 of Title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

* * * * *

Income derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities means, as determined by FSA, income of an individual or legal entity derived from the following sources:

(1) Production of crops and unfinished raw forestry products;

(2) Production of livestock, aquaculture products used for food, honeybees, and products derived from livestock;

(3) Production of farm-based renewable energy;

(4) Selling (including the sale of easements and development rights) of farm, ranch, and forestry land, water or hunting rights, or environmental benefits;

(5) Rental or lease of land or equipment used for farming, ranching, or forestry operations, including water or hunting rights;

(6) Processing, packing, storing, and transportation of farm, ranch, or forestry commodities including renewable energy;

(7) Feeding, rearing, or finishing of livestock;

(8) Payments of benefits, including benefits from risk management practices, crop insurance indemnities, and catastrophic risk protection plans;

(9) Sale of land by a person or legal entity that has a beneficial interest in the land that has been used for agricultural purposes;

(10) Payments and benefits authorized under any program made available and applicable to payment eligibility and payment limitation rules, including disaster assistance and ad-hoc programs unless otherwise specified in the individual program regulations;

(11) Income reported on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Schedule F, IRS Form 4835, or other schedule or form used by the person or legal entity to report income from such operations to the IRS;

(12) Wages or dividends received from a closely held corporation, an Interest Charge Domestic International Sales Corporation (IC–DISC), or legal entity comprised entirely of family members when more than 50 percent of the legal entity's gross receipts for each tax year are derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities as defined in this subpart;

(13) Agritourism;

(14) Direct-to-consumer marketing of agricultural products produced as part of the farming operation including, but not limited to, farm stands, community-supported agriculture, U-pick operations, farmers' markets, and online sales;

(15) The sale or trade of agricultural equipment by a person or legal entity that owns such equipment; and

(16) Any other activity related to farming, ranching, and silviculture, as determined by FSA.

* * * * *

Program year means the fiscal year, October 1 through September 30, unless otherwise provided in individual program regulations of this chapter.

* * * * *

Qualified pass-through entity means:

(1) A partnership within the meaning of subchapter K of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*);

(2) An S corporation as defined in 26 U.S.C. 1361(a);

(3) A limited liability company that does not affirmatively elect to be treated as a corporation for federal tax purposes; and

(4) A joint venture or general partnership.

* * * * *

§ 1400.6 [Amended]

■ 4. In § 1400.6(a), remove the words ''joint operations'' and add ''qualified pass-through entities'' in their place.

■ 5. In § 1400.10, add paragraph (e) to read as follows.

§ 1400.10 Notification of interests.

* * * * *

(e) A legal entity will not be eligible to receive any payment for programs specified in § 1400.1, or any other program as provided in individual program regulations in this chapter, when the name, address, and ownership share of each person or legal entity that holds a direct or indirect ownership interest in the legal entity is not provided to USDA.

Subpart B—Payment Limitation

■ 6. Add § 1400.100 to read as follows.

§ 1400.100 Limited Liability Companies and Corporations.

(a) For program year 2026 and subsequent years, a farming operation that is a limited liability company or corporation must provide a certification of their farm operating plan. Certifications must document the entity type as:

(1) A C corporation or S corporation; or

(2) An LLC pass-through or an LLC that affirmatively elects to be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes.

(b) Certifications made according to paragraph (a) of this section will be effective for the program year of the certification and future years.

(c) For program year 2026, a farming operation's organizational structure as of September 15, 2026, will be used to determine the operation's entity type.

(d) For program year 2027 and subsequent years, the farming operation's organizational structure as of June 1 will be used to determine the entity type.

■ 7. In § 1400.105, add paragraph (d)(3) to read as follows.

§ 1400.105 Attribution of payments.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(3) For program year 2026, the applicable date for the purpose of administering paragraphs (d), (d)(1), and (d)(2) of this section for qualified pass-through entities will be September 15, 2026.

* * * * *

■ 8. In § 1400.106, revise paragraph (b) to read as follows.

§ 1400.106 Payment limits.

* * * * *

(b)(1) Payments made for program year 2025 and prior years to a joint operation cannot exceed, for each payment specified in subpart A of this part, the amount determined by multiplying the maximum payment amount specified in subpart A of this part by the number of persons and legal entities, other than joint operations, that comprise the ownership of the joint operation.

(2) Payments made for program year 2026 and subsequent years to a qualified pass-through entity cannot exceed, for each payment specified in subpart A of this part, the amount determined by multiplying the maximum payment amount specified in subpart A of this part by the number of persons and legal entities, other than qualified pass-through entities, that comprise the ownership of the qualified pass-through entity.

* * * * *

Subpart C—Payment Eligibility

§ 1400.201 [Amended]

■ 9. In § 1400.201(d)(4), remove the word ''Whether'' and add ''For program year 2025 and prior years, whether'' in its place.

§ 1400.202 [Amended]

■ 10. Amend § 1400.202 as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (c)(1), remove the words ''joint operation, or legal entity'' and add ''qualified pass-through entity, or other legal entity'' in their place; and

■ b. In paragraph (c)(2), remove the words ''joint operations, or legal entities'' and add the words ''qualified pass-through entities, or other legal entities'' in their place.

■ 11. Amend § 1400.203 as follows:

■ a. Revise the section heading, paragraph (a) introductory text, and paragraph (b); and

■ b. In paragraph (c), remove the word ''If'' and add ''For program year 2025 and prior, if'' in its place; and

■ c. Add paragraph (d).

The revisions and addition read as follows.

§ 1400.203 Joint operations and qualified pass-through entities.

(a) For program year 2025 and prior years, a member of a joint operation, and for program year 2026 and subsequent years, a member of a qualified pass-through entity, will be considered to be actively engaged in farming with respect to a farming operation if the member:

* * * * *

(b)(1) For program year 2025 and prior years, for a farming operation conducted by a joint operation in which the capital, equipment, or land is contributed by the joint operation, the capital, equipment, or land:

(i) To meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section, and if contributed directly by the joint operation, must not be acquired as a loan made to, guaranteed, co-signed, or secured by any person, legal entity, or other joint operation that has an interest in the farming operation; and

(ii) To meet the requirements of paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, and if acquired as a result of a loan made to, guaranteed, co-signed, or secured by the persons, legal entities, or joint operations with an interest in the operation, the loan must:

(A) Bear the prevailing interest rate; and

(B) Have a repayment schedule considered reasonable and customary for the area.

(2) For program year 2026 and subsequent years, for a farming operation conducted by a qualified pass-through entity in which the capital, equipment, or land is contributed by the qualified pass-through entity, the capital, equipment, or land:

(i) To meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section, and if contributed directly by the qualified pass-through entity, must not be acquired as a loan made to, guaranteed, co-signed, or secured by any person, legal entity, or other qualified pass-through entity that has an interest in the farming operation; and

(ii) To meet the requirements of paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, and if acquired as a result of a loan made to, guaranteed, co-signed, or secured by the persons, legal entities, or qualified pass-through entities with an interest in the operation, the loan must:

(A) Bear the prevailing interest rate; and

(B) Have a repayment schedule considered reasonable and customary for the area.

* * * * *

(d) For program year 2026 and subsequent years, if a qualified pass-through entity separately makes a significant contribution of capital, equipment, or land, or a combination of capital, equipment, or land, and the qualified pass-through entity meets the provisions of § 1400.201(b)(2) and (3), the members of the qualified pass-through entity who make a significant contribution, whether compensated or not compensated, of active personal labor, active personal management, or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation as specified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section will be considered to be actively engaged in farming with respect to the farming operation.

■ 12. Amend § 1400.204 as follows:

■ a. Revise paragraph (a) introductory text;

■ b. In paragraph (d)(1), remove the words ''joint operation'' and add ''qualified pass-through entity'' in their place; and

■ c. In paragraph (d)(2), remove the words ''joint operations'' and add ''qualified pass-through entities'' in their place.

The revision reads as follows.

§ 1400.204 Limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations, and other similar legal entities.

(a) For program year 2025 and prior years, a limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, corporation, or other similar legal entity; or for program year 2026 and subsequent years, a C corporation, limited liability company that affirmatively elects to be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, or other similar legal entity will be considered to be actively engaged in farming with respect to a farming operation if:

* * * * *

§ 1400.205 [Amended]

■ 13. Amend § 1400.205 as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (e)(1), remove the words ''joint operation'' and add ''qualified pass-through entity'' in their place; and

■ b. In paragraph (e)(2), remove the words ''joint operations'' and add ''qualified pass-through entities'' in their place.

§ 1400.206 [Amended]

■ 14. Amend § 1400.206 as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (b)(1), remove the words ''joint operation'' and add ''qualified pass-through entity'' in their place; and

■ b. In paragraph (b)(2), remove the words ''joint operations'' and add ''qualified pass-through entities'' in their place.

■ 15. Amend § 1400.207 as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (b), remove the words ''A landowner'' and add ''For program year 2025 and prior years, a landowner'', and remove the words ''revert to the member'' and add ''revert to the members'' in their place; and

■ b. Add paragraph (c).

The addition reads as follows.

§ 1400.207 Landowners.

* * * * *

(c) For program year 2026 and subsequent years, a landowner also includes a member of a qualified pass-through entity if the qualified pass-through entity holds title to land in the name of the qualified pass-through entity and if the qualified pass-through entity or its members submit adequate documentation to determine that, upon dissolution of the qualified pass-through entity, the title to the land owned by the qualified pass-through entity will revert to the members of the qualified pass-through entity.

■ 16. Revise § 1400.214(d) to read as follows.

§ 1400.214 Cash rent tenants.

* * * * *

(d)(1) For program year 2025 and prior years, if the cash rent tenant is a joint operation, then each member or their spouse must make a significant contribution of active personal labor or active personal management as specified in § 1400.203(a)(1)(ii) to be considered eligible for the member's share of the program payments received by the joint operation on the cash rented land.

(2) For program year 2026 and subsequent years, if the cash rent tenant is a qualified pass-through entity, then each member or their spouse must make a significant contribution of active personal labor or active personal management as specified in § 1400.203(a)(1)(ii) to be considered eligible for the member's share of the program payments received by the

qualified pass-through entity on the cash rented land.

* * * * *

Subpart E—Foreign Persons

■ 17. Revise § 1400.401(b)(2) to read as follows.

§ 1400.401 Eligibility.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) In determining whether more than 10 percent of the ownership of a legal entity is held by persons who are not citizens of the United States or by lawful aliens, the ownership interest will be the interest held on June 1 of each year.

* * * * *

Subpart F—Average Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

§ 1400.500 [Amended]

■ 18. In § 1400.500(a), remove the words ''joint venture or general partnership'' and add ''qualified pass-through entity'' in their place.

■ 19. Revise § 1400.502(a) introductory text to read as follows.

§ 1400.502 Compliance and enforcement.

(a) To comply with the average adjusted gross income limitation, for program year 2025 and prior years, a person or legal entity, including all interest holders in a legal entity, general partnership, or joint venture, and for program year 2026 and subsequent years, a person or legal entity other than a qualified pass-through entity, including all interest holders in a legal entity and qualified pass-through entity must provide annually the following as required by CCC:

* * * * *

§ 1400.503 [Amended]

■ 20. Amend § 1400.503 as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (a), remove the words ''legal entity, general partnership, or joint venture'' and add ''legal entity or qualified pass-through entity'' both times they appear; and

■ b. In paragraph (b), add the words ''including a qualified pass-through entity,'' after ''legal entity,''.

■ 21. Add new § 1400.504 to read as follows.

§ 1400.504 Exceptions.

(a) Beginning with program year 2026 unless otherwise specified, the $900,000 average adjusted gross income limitation of this subpart is waived for a person or legal entity when:

(1) The person or legal entity derives 75 percent or more of their average gross income from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities;

(2) The program payment or benefit is an excepted payment as provided in paragraph (b) of this section; and

(3) The person or legal entity provides a certification acceptable to FSA that is verified by a licensed certified public accountant, attorney, or an authorized enrolled agent.

(b) Beginning with program year 2026 unless otherwise specified and for the purpose of this subpart, an excepted payment or benefit means a payment or benefit issued through:

(1) The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP), part 1416 of this chapter;

(2) The Tree Assistance Program (TAP), part 1416 of this chapter;

(3) The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), part 1437 of this chapter;

(4) The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), part 1410 of this chapter received on or after October 1, 2024; and

(5) The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs of this title including, but not limited to, the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), received on or after October 1, 2024.

William Beam,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2026–11002 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Parts 438, 440, 457, and 460

Office of the Secretary

45 CFR Parts 80, 84, 92, 147, 155 and 156

Notice of Vacatur Regarding Certain Provisions of the 2024 Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities Final Rule

AGENCY: Office for Civil Rights, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notification of court decision.

SUMMARY: This is to inform the public that, on October 22, 2025, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi issued an order in *Tennessee* v. *Kennedy,* No. 1:24–cv–161–LG–BWR (S.D. Miss. Oct. 22, 2025), vacating portions of the final rule titled ''Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities,'' published May 6, 2024 (89 FR 37522). Specifically, the court vacated certain provisions of the regulation to the extent they expand Title IX's definition of sex discrimination to include gender-identity discrimination. Pursuant to the court's order, the vacated provisions are legally void. The other provisions of the Section 1557 Rule remain in force.

DATES: The *Tennessee* court issued its vacatur order on October 22, 2025. As long as the specified provisions of the 2024 Section 1557 Rule remain vacated, OCR and CMS cannot and will not enforce the vacated provisions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Mitchell at (202) 240–3110 or (800) 537–7697 (TDD), or by email at *1557@hhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or the Department) is responsible for enforcing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (Section 1557).[1] Section 1557 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in a health program or activity, any part of which is receiving Federal financial assistance. On August 4, 2022, the Department published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).[2] On May 6, 2024, the Department published a final rule, the Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities Rule (2024 Rule or Rule),[3] which finalized proposals in the NPRM. The 2024 Rule provides, among other things, that discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of gender identity.[4]

On July 3, 2024, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi granted a preliminary injunction that prohibited HHS from enforcing, relying on, implementing, or otherwise acting pursuant to the 2024 Rule's provisions concerning gender-

[1] 42 U.S.C. 18116.

[2] See 87 FR 47824.

[3] *See* 89 FR 37522 (May 6, 2024).

[4] 45 CFR 92.101(a)(2)(iv).

identity discrimination.[5] The Court also stayed the Rule's effective date as to specific provisions, insofar as the Rule was intended to extend discrimination on the basis of sex to include discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

On October 22, 2025, the court issued a final judgment vacating the following parts of the 2024 Rule to the extent that they expand Title IX's definition of sex discrimination to include gender-identity discrimination: 42 CFR 438.3(d)(4), 42 CFR 438.206(c)(2), 42 CFR 440.262 (which apply to CHIP managed care through cross-references in §§ 457.1201(d) and 457.1230(a), and CHIP fee-for-service through cross-reference at § 457.495(e)), 42 CFR 460.98(b)(3), 42 CFR 460.112(a), 45 CFR 92.101(a)(2)(iv), 45 CFR 92.206(b)(1)–(4), 45 CFR 92.207(b)(3)–(5), 45 CFR 92.8(b)(1), 45 CFR 92.10(a)(1)(i), and 45 CFR 92.208.[6] The court also issued plaintiffs the following declaratory judgment: ''HHS exceeded its statutory authority when (1) it interpreted Title IX, as incorporated into Section 1557, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity, and (2) when it implemented Section 1557 regulations concerning gender identity and 'gender affirming care.' '' [7]

As long as the specified provisions of the 2024 Section 1557 Rule remain vacated, those provisions are legally void to the extent that they expand Title IX's definition of sex discrimination to include gender-identity discrimination. OCR cannot and will not investigate or enforce compliance with, the provisions of the 2024 Rule that were vacated, to the extent that such provisions expanded Title IX's definition of sex discrimination to include gender-identity discrimination.

II. Who/what is covered by this notification?

This Notification applies to all covered entities with respect to their compliance with the provisions of the 2024 Section 1557 Rule that were deemed unlawful and vacated by the court.

III. Who/what is not covered by this notification?

This Notification does not apply to the provisions of the Section 1557 Rule that were not vacated in the Court's October 22, 2025, final judgment or to the specified provisions to the extent they relate to things other than expanding Title IX's definition of discrimination to include gender-identity discrimination. The other provisions of the 2024 Rule remain in force.

IV. Collection of Information Requirements

This Notification creates no legal obligations and no legal rights. Because this Notification imposes no information collection requirements, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Mehmet Oz, having reviewed and approved this document, authorizes Evell Barco Holland, who is the **Federal Register** Liaison, to electronically sign this document for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Paula M. Stannard,

Director, Office for Civil Rights.

Evell Barco Holland,

Federal Register *Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

[FR Doc. 2026–11015 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4153–01–P

[5] *Tennessee* v. *Becerra,* No. 1:24–cv–161–LG–BWR (S.D. Miss. July 3, 2024) Dkt. 30.

[6] *Tennessee* v. *Kennedy,* No. 1:24–cv–161–LG–BWR (S.D. Miss. Oct. 22, 2025). The court held ''universal vacatur is the appropriate remedy'' and that HHS exceeded its statutory authority. Dkt. 79 at 21.

[7] Final Judgment, *Tennessee* v. *Kennedy,* No. 1:24–cv–161–LG–BWR (S.D. Miss. Oct. 22, 2025), Dkt. 80 at 1–2.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

46 CFR Part 506

[Docket No. FMC–2026–0232]

RIN 3072–AD05

Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties

AGENCY: Federal Maritime Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Federal Maritime Commission (the Commission or FMC)'s civil monetary penalty amounts will not increase for the 2026 calendar year. The FMC is generally required by statute to annually adjust for inflation the maximum civil penalty amounts subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. In accordance with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), however, the FMC will continue to use the 2025 civil monetary penalty levels due to the absence of a cost-of-living adjustment for 2026.

DATES: This rule is effective June 2, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Eng, Secretary; Phone: (202) 523–5725; Email: *Secretary@fmc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Pub. L. 114–74, sec. 701), which further amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101–410), was enacted on November 2, 2015.[1] The 2015 Act requires agencies to annually adjust the level of civil monetary penalties for inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI–U) data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).[2] Per the 2015 Act, the annual civil monetary penalties cost-of-living adjustment is based on BLS data from the month of October of the prior year. Due to the Government shutdown, BLS did not release a CPI–U for October 2025.

On April 17, 2026, OMB issued memorandum M–26–11, *Cancellation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2026, Regarding the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015,* informing agencies of the cancellation of the inflation adjustment for 2026. Based on the lack of CPI–U data for October 2025, which is needed to make adjustments under the 2015 Act, and in accordance with OMB Memorandum M–26–11, the Commission will continue using the 2025 civil monetary penalty levels.

Rulemaking Analyses and Notices

Administrative Procedure Act

Adjustments under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, as amended, are not subject to the procedural rulemaking requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553, including the requirements for prior notice, an opportunity for comment, and a delay between the issuance of a final rule and its effective date.[3]

Executive Order 12866

OIRA has determined that this rule is not significant for purposes of section 3 of Executive Order 12866.

[1] Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, § 701(b)(1)(A) (codified as amended at 28 U.S.C. 2461 note).

[2] OMB Memorandum M–16–06, *Implementation of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015* (Feb. 24, 2016), guided agencies on initial ''catch-up'' adjustment requirements, and subsequent memoranda, including, for example, M–24–07, guided agencies on annual adjustment requirements.

[3] Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, Public Law 101–410, section 4(b)(2), 104 Stat. 890 (codified at 28 U.S.C. 2461 note).

Congressional Review Act

The rule is not a ''major rule'' as defined by the Congressional Review Act, codified at 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq*. The rule will not result in: (1) an annual effect on the economy of $100,000,000 or more; (2) a major increase in costs or prices; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based companies to compete with foreign-based companies. 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (codified as amended at 5 U.S.C. 601–612) provides that whenever an agency promulgates a final rule after being required to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking under the APA (5 U.S.C. 553), the agency must prepare and make available a final regulatory flexibility analysis describing the impact of the rule on small entities or the head of the agency must certify that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. 5 U.S.C. 604–605. As indicated above, this final rule is not subject to the APA's notice and comment requirements, and the Commission is therefore not required to either conduct a regulatory flexibility analysis or certify that the final rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521) requires an agency to seek and receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before collecting information from the public. 44 U.S.C. 3507. The agency must submit collections of information in rules to OMB in conjunction with the publication of the notice of proposed rulemaking. 5 CFR 1320.11. This final rule does not contain any collection of information, as defined by 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c).

List of Subjects in 46 CFR Part 506

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Penalties.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, 46 CFR part 506 is amended as follows:

PART 506—CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY INFLATION ADJUSTMENT

■ 1. The authority citation for part 506 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 2461.

■ 2. Amend § 506.4 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 506.4 Cost of living adjustments of civil monetary penalties.

* * * * *

(d) *Inflation adjustment.* Maximum civil monetary penalties within the jurisdiction of the Federal Maritime Commission are adjusted for inflation as follows:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (d)

United States Code citation	Civil monetary penalty description	Maximum penalty as of January 15, 2025	Maximum penalty as of January 15, 2026
46 U.S.C. 42304	Adverse impact on U.S. carriers by foreign shipping practices	$2,626,135	$2,626,135
46 U.S.C. 41107(a)	Knowing and Willful violation/Shipping Act of 1984, or Commission regulation or order.	74,943	74,943
46 U.S.C. 41107(a)	Violation of Shipping Act of 1984, Commission regulation or order, not knowing and willful.	14,988	14,988
46 U.S.C. 41108(b)	Operating in foreign commerce after tariff suspension	149,887	149,887
46 U.S.C. 42104	Failure to provide required reports, etc./Merchant Marine Act of 1920	11,823	11,823
46 U.S.C. 42106	Adverse shipping conditions/Merchant Marine Act of 1920	2,364,503	2,364,503
46 U.S.C. 42108	Operating after tariff or service contract suspension/Merchant Marine Act of 1920.	118,225	118,225
46 U.S.C. 44102, 44104	Failure to establish financial responsibility for non-performance of transportation.	29,864 996	29,864 996
46 U.S.C. 44103, 44104	Failure to establish financial responsibility for death or injury	29,864 996	29,864 996
31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1)	Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act/making false claim	14,308	14,308
31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(2)	Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act/giving false statement	14,308	14,308

By the Commission.

David Eng,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10996 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Parts 107, 171, and 173

[Docket No. PHMSA–2020–0103 (HM–257A)]

RIN 2137–AF50

Hazardous Materials: Streamlining Requirements for the Approval of Certain Energetic Materials

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: PHMSA is amending the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) by streamlining the classification and approval process for transporting certain low-hazard fireworks, revising the criteria for small arms cartridges to include tracer ammunition as eligible for self-classification, designating the PHMSA portal as the sole method to submit applications for all explosives approvals, and authorizing voluntary termination of an explosive approval by the approval holder.

DATES:

Effective Date: This final rule is effective on July 2, 2026. The

incorporation by reference of certain material listed in this rule was approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of December 28, 2020.

Voluntary Compliance Date: June 2, 2026.

Delayed Compliance Date: August 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Eugenio Cardez, Standards and Rulemaking Division, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001, 202–366–8553, *eugenio.cardez@dot.gov.*

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I. Executive Summary

PHMSA is adopting, with some modification based on comments received, the amendments proposed in the HM–257A notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), titled *Hazardous Materials: Streamlining Requirements for the Approval of Certain Energetic Materials.*[1] This final rule:

- Streamlines the classification and approval process for transporting certain low-hazard fireworks by allowing self-certification using an online application in the PHMSA portal;
- Ensures exception from regulation of low hazard fireworks commonly known as novelty devices by adopting guidance criteria into the HMR;
- Revises the classification criteria for small arms cartridges to include tracer ammunition as eligible for self-classification as a Division 1.4S material;
- Designates the PHMSA portal as the sole method to submit applications for all explosives approvals; and
- Authorizes an approval holder to terminate an explosive approval voluntarily.

PHMSA expects the final rule will generate aggregate cost savings by reducing unnecessary burdens on the classification process for the transportation of explosives—such as low hazard fireworks—and providing additional flexibility for stakeholders while maintaining current levels of safety.[2] The amendments in the final rule will also reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens constraining innovation and commerce consistent with Executive Order (E.O.) 14192 (*Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*).

PHMSA expects the final rule will result in net cost savings of $2.2 million (2024 dollars) over a 10-year analysis period, or approximately $200,000 annually. PHMSA also estimates that 846 labor hours will be saved annually from time that would have been spent processing fireworks approvals, resulting in an annual budget savings of $85,341 to the government—significantly increasing government efficiency and making government resources available for other higher priority tasks. The final rule will streamline the approval process, improve regulatory clarity, and facilitate international trade without adversely affecting safety. PHMSA has developed a detailed economic analysis in the final regulatory impact analysis (RIA), a copy of which has been placed in the docket.

II. Incorporation by Reference Discussion Under 1 CFR Part 51

PHMSA incorporates by reference into the HMR all or parts of numerous standards and specifications developed and published by standard development organizations (SDOs). In general, SDOs update and revise their published standards every two to five years to reflect modern technology and best technical practices.

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA; 15 U.S.C. 3701 *et seq.*) directs Federal agencies to use standards developed by voluntary consensus standards bodies in lieu of government-written standards whenever possible. Voluntary consensus standards bodies develop, establish, or coordinate technical standards using agreed-upon procedures. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Circular A–119, *Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities,* to implement section 12(d) of the NTTAA relative to the utilization of consensus technical standards by Federal agencies. This circular provides guidance for Federal agencies participating in voluntary consensus standards bodies and describes procedures for satisfying the reporting requirements in the NTTAA.

PHMSA is responsible for determining which standards currently referenced in the HMR should be updated, revised, or removed, and which standards should be added to the HMR, under the NTTAA and Circular A–119. Revisions to materials incorporated by reference in the HMR are handled via the rulemaking process, which allows for the public and regulated entities to provide input. During the rulemaking process, PHMSA must also obtain approval from the Office of the Federal Register to incorporate by reference any new materials. The Office of the Federal Register issued a rulemaking that revised 1 CFR 51.5 to require that an agency detail in the preamble of a final rule the ways the materials it proposes to incorporate by reference are reasonably available to interested parties, or how the agency worked to make those materials reasonably available to interested parties.[3]

The following American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) standards appear in the regulatory text of this final rule and have already been incorporated by reference into the HMR in 49 CFR 171.7 and approved for the locations in which they appear: (1) APA 87–1A: *Standard for the Construction, Classification, Approval and Transportation of Consumer Fireworks* (2018); (2) APA 87–1B: *Standard for the Construction, Classification, Approval, and Transportation of Display Fireworks* (2018); and (3) APA 87–1C: *Standard for the Construction, Classification, Approval, and Transportation of*

[1] 88 FR 83514 (Nov. 30, 2023).

[2] 49 CFR parts 171–180.

[3] 79 FR 66278 (Nov. 7, 2014).

Entertainment Industry and Technical Pyrotechnics (2018). No changes to these standards are established in this final rule.

III. Background

A. Low Hazard Fireworks

The final rule amends the classification and approval process for certain low hazard fireworks determined to be Division 1.4G explosives under the HMR. Section 173.50(b)(4) defines Division 1.4 explosives to consist of explosives that present a minor explosion hazard. Table 1 to § 173.52 assigns a ''G'' to Division 1.4 explosives that are pyrotechnic substances or articles containing a pyrotechnic substance, or articles containing both an explosive substance and an illuminating, incendiary, tear-producing or smoke-producing substance. Many fireworks are assigned to compatibility group ''G.'' These low hazard fireworks include ground and novelty device fireworks under the 2018 APA Standard 87–1A. However, novelty fireworks that comply with the requirements of the 2018 APA Standard 87–1A are regulated as hazardous materials effectively only when transported by air, and then as Division 4.1 flammable solids instead of as Class 1 explosives.

Low hazard fireworks are explosive articles that are not designed to leave ground level, contain no aerial components, and contain less than 100 grams of chemical composition per tube. These explosive articles are known to present a minimum safety risk in transportation. Manufacturing is restricted to using only chemicals from the ''Permitted and Restricted Chemical Table for Consumer Fireworks and Novelties'' found in 2018 APA Standard 87–1A and reports (*i.e.,* the ''pop'' or ''bang'' heard from a firework) being limited to no more than 50 milligrams of report composition.

Classifying low hazard fireworks as Division 1.4G fireworks is consistent with the United Nations (UN) default fireworks table (''the UN table'') and 30 years of classification experience under the APA standards. The UN table for explosives, specifically within Class 1, categorizes explosives into six divisions based on their potential effects. The six divisions range from those with a mass explosion hazard (1.1) to those with a minor explosion hazard (1.4) and include categories for projection hazards and fire hazards with varying degrees of severity. The UN table is used primarily when specific test data or competent authority classifications are unavailable, particularly for imported fireworks. For clarity, PHMSA is adding a separate term and description for ''low hazard fireworks'' to § 173.59 (description of terms for explosives). The addition of this description maintains current levels of safety by ensuring proper understanding of the meaning of low hazard fireworks in the HMR for purposes of the provisions adopted in this rulemaking.

1. Ground Devices

The final rule streamlines the approval or certification process to allow self-certification. Ground device fireworks are designed to produce their effects at or near ground level. The following 17 individual ground devices are considered low hazard fireworks that may be approved or certified for transportation using the new system, provided they meet HMR and APA requirements for construction, formulation, and packaging: Chaser, Crackling Ball, Crackling Strip, Crackling Tube, Firecracker, Flasher/Strobe, Flitter Sparkler, Fountain Cone, Fountain Cylindrical, Fountain Nitrocellulose, Ground Spinner, Illuminating Torch, Smoke, Snake, Specialty Device, Wheel, and Sparklers (to include the Wire Sparkler or Dipped Stick varieties).

Ground devices meeting 2018 APA Standard 87–1A are described and classified as ''UN0336, Fireworks, Division 1.4G.'' Currently, ground device classifications are either approved by PHMSA personnel or certified by a Fireworks Certification Agency (FCA) upon completion of a multi-step review of each application. The final rule allows manufacturers to self-certify using an online application in the PHMSA portal that employs an automated system for review and issuance of a certification. This automated system may be used for the ground devices identified in this final rule in lieu of the current process, which will avoid time-consuming reviews by PHMSA or FCA personnel and reduce costs to manufacturers who opt to use an FCA to certify these firework types.

Manufacturers of fireworks that meet the criteria for the construction, formulation, and packaging of these ground devices—specifically discussed in Section V of the 2018 APA Standard 87–1A—certify compliance with specified conditions and limitations and receive a certificate with a unique identifier number (*i.e.,* a FW number) for each firework type. The online application in the PHMSA portal provides immediate comparison of the technical information provided by the applicant against the criteria established for ground device fireworks. PHMSA will maintain oversight of the self-certification information submitted to the PHMSA portal for these low hazard firework types through a quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) review program. Accordingly, PHMSA finds the current safety level will be maintained when using this process for self-certification of eligible ground device fireworks.

PHMSA is not authorizing cake and combination ground devices to be eligible for self-certification at this time. Manufacturers can use the PHMSA portal to submit an application for these ground devices following the standard approval application process to obtain an EX number or, alternatively, use an FCA to obtain an FC number for transportation.

2. Novelty Devices

The final rule adopts conditions and criteria for exceptions from regulation for novelty devices (''novelties'') consistent with past guidance and the 2018 APA Standard 87–1A. Shippers and carriers of novelties that meet the construction, formulation, and packaging criteria for these devices are not subject to regulation under the HMR beyond the conditions adopted for novelties. Though excepted from regulation in most circumstances, novelty devices meeting the conditions and criteria prescribed in the final rule are still subject to PHMSA oversight.

PHMSA guidance currently allows for five novelties—when shipped domestically by ground, rail, or vessel—to be transported without being regulated as explosives when manufactured in accordance with the applicable provisions in the 2001 edition of APA Standard 87–1. The 2018 APA Standard 87–1A includes two additional novelties that may be excluded from HMR requirements—for a total of seven novelties—provided they meet the conditional requirements for construction, formulation, packaging, and transportation mode. The seven novelties are Booby Trap/Pull Apart, Novelty Flitter Sparkler, Party Popper, Novelty Snake, Snapper, Novelty Wire Sparkler or Novelty Dipped Stick, and Novelty Smoke Device. However, when prepared for transportation by air, these novelties must be described and classified as ''UN3178, Flammable solid, inorganic, n.o.s. (novelties), 4.1'' and shipped as flammable solids under the HMR.

When transported domestically by ground, rail, or vessel, a PHMSA approval or FCA certification is not required for novelties manufactured in accordance with the PHMSA guidance

document and the applicable provisions in 2018 APA Standard 87–1A. PHMSA is not aware of any systemic safety issues or safety concerns involving shipments of novelties meeting these conditions. This final rule adopts the relief provided in the PHMSA guidance by regulation to provide manufacturers of novelties with greater clarity and certainty without reducing levels while maintaining safety.[4]

B. Tracer Ammunition

The final rule clarifies that certain tracer ammunition is a small arms cartridge eligible for self-classification as a Division 1.4S material and excepted from the explosive application approval process, provided the applicable criteria in 49 CFR 173.56(h) are met. However, the text of an exception for small arms cartridges in a subsequent provision, § 173.56(h)(3), has created uncertainty as to whether an inert projectile with a tracer can be included under that regulation. Tracer ammunition uses a small amount of pyrotechnic charge at the base or as coating of the projectile to make the trajectory of the projectile visible to the naked eye. Affected entities have expressed concern about whether tracer ammunition is considered inert under § 173.56(h)(3) and qualifies for the exception in that regulation. PHMSA considers the small amount of pyrotechnic charge as a negligible quantity of explosive material compared to the quantity of propelling charge contained within the cartridge itself, and this small amount of pyrotechnic charge at the base of or coated on the projectile does not increase the hazard posed by the packaged cartridges in a bonfire test nor make unintentional initiation any more likely.

C. Process for Submitting Approval Applications

The final rule amends § 107.705(a)(1) to allow the PHMSA portal to be used for submitting all approval applications and to require the use of the PHMSA portal for explosives approval applications, including to self-certify the manufacture of ground device fireworks. Persons will no longer be able to submit explosives approval applications by mail, email, or fax and must use the PHMSA portal after the final rule becomes effective. PHMSA believes that moving to an electronic-only service will increase efficiency in processing the large volume of explosives approval applications that are submitted on an annual basis. The PHMSA portal provides the public online access to PHMSA services, creating a single source for Hazardous Materials and Pipeline Safety applications and data. Persons need only to register to create an account to access and use the portal. Further discussion is provided in ''Section V.''

D. Voluntary Termination of Existing Approvals

The final rule modifies the process for the modification, suspension, and termination of approvals in § 107.713. As currently prescribed in § 107.713(c), before an approval is modified, suspended, or terminated, PHMSA must provide approval holders an opportunity to show cause why the proposed action should not be taken. The final rule amends § 107.713 to add a new provision allowing approval holders to request termination of approvals. The final rule also revises the current requirements to clarify that when an approval holder voluntarily seeks to terminate an approval, PHMSA is not required to issue a show cause letter.

IV. Public Comments

PHMSA issued an NPRM under Docket No. PHMSA 2020–0103 (HM–257A).[5] The comment period for the NPRM closed February 28, 2024. PHMSA received seven sets of comments from the following:

American Fireworks Standards Laboratory (AFSL)	PHMSA–2020–0103–0006
American Promotional Events, Inc. (''TNT Fireworks'')	PHMSA–2020–0103–0009
American Pyrotechnics Association (APA)	PHMSA–2020–0103–0007
Anonymous	PHMSA–2020–0103–0005
P.R. China	PHMSA–2020–0103–0004
Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI)	PHMSA–2020–0103–0003
United Pyrotechnics (UP)	PHMSA–2020–0103–0008

All comments are generally supportive of PHMSA's efforts under this rulemaking—especially self-certification of ''low hazard fireworks'' and streamlining of the approval process overall. The comments submitted to this docket may be accessed via the docket file numbers listed in the above table at *https://www.regulations.gov.* PHMSA developed this final rule in consideration of the comments received to the public docket.

Within the seven sets of positive comments, PHMSA did receive several outside the scope of this rulemaking. Specifically, PHMSA received comments from SAAMI recommending the following revisions to the HMR to improve efficiency:

- Establish a de minimis threshold for minute amounts of explosives in either very small per-unit quantities or percentages in dilutions.
- Review testing requirements for high hazard explosives in Division 1.1 by relying only on sensitivity and thermal stability testing to ensure that an explosive is safe to transport.
- Specify a high, medium, and low hazard explosives groups scheme.
- Use a management approach to Division 1.4S explosives.
- Standardize the approach to Class 9 energetics, consistent with proposals and the United Nations.
- Consider more fully relying on the recommendations from PHMSA-approved explosive laboratories.

PHMSA appreciates SAAMI's feedback on areas for increasing efficiency in the safe transportation of explosives. Though relevant to the discussion of the approach to classifying and transporting explosives, PHMSA did not propose these changes in the NPRM and is therefore declining to pursue them at this time. However, PHMSA invites SAAMI and its member companies to submit petitions for rulemaking that include economic and safety information in support of such changes. PHMSA also will consider these suggestions as part of its efforts to improve government efficiency.

PHMSA also received comment from the AFSL—an independent, not-for-profit standards development and testing organization serving the consumer fireworks industry. AFSL sets design, construction, and product

[4] PHMSA anticipates that publishing this final rule will necessitate withdrawing certain guidance documents. *See, e.g.,* Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Admin., *Guidance and Criteria For Fireworks Novelty Devices* (Mar. 19, 2015), available at *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/energetic-materials-approvals/guidance-and-criteria-fireworks-novelty-devices.*

[5] 88 FR 83514 (Nov. 30, 2023).

performance standards for all current categories of consumer fireworks and novelties. AFSL recommended that PHMSA audit all products requiring EX or FC numbers to ensure manufacture of the product is consistent with the information provided to PHMSA. AFSL believes that consumer fireworks devices which differ materially from information submitted and approved in the application process are being imported into the U.S. and creating a risk to the American public. PHMSA acknowledges the AFSL's concerns about product quality and agency oversight. Though beyond the scope of this rulemaking, PHMSA will take AFSL's recommendation into consideration for development of a plan and allocation of enforcement resources to inspect consumer fireworks products.

V. Discussion of Amendments and Applicable Comments

The final rule amends certain regulations in the HMR for explosives approvals to streamline procedural requirements for fireworks manufacturers and shippers. PHMSA will continue to use the current approval process for Division 1.4G consumer fireworks in accordance with § 173.56(b), (f), or (i), and § 173.65. However, the final rule allows manufacturers to self-certify the classification of certain ground device fireworks using the PHMSA portal and creates a conditional exception from further regulation under the HMR for novelties. Furthermore, the final rule revises the self-classification of inert projectile cartridges in § 173.56(h) to include explicitly tracer ammunition; amends § 107.705 to mandate the use of the PHMSA portal for explosives approval applications; and amends § 107.713 to clarify that an approval holder may voluntarily terminate an approval and to clarify that a show cause letter from PHMSA is unnecessary in these circumstances. Note that the ability to terminate an approval voluntarily is not limited to holders of explosives approvals and applies to all approval holders.

In the final RIA, PHMSA determined that the aggregate benefits of the amendments in the final rule justify their aggregate costs. The amendments are expected to reduce the paperwork burden on the regulated community and PHMSA personnel by eliminating paper-based explosives approval applications. The overall net benefits include a cost savings of 846 labor hours annually. See the RIA for additional information. These cost savings will not have a material effect on the safety impact of PHMSA's explosives approval program. Based on an assessment of the comments received in response to the NPRM, PHMSA amends the HMR as detailed in this section.

A. Establishing Exceptions for Ground and Novelty Device Fireworks

The final rule revises § 173.64—Exceptions for Division 1.3 and 1.4 Fireworks—to codify exceptions for ground devices and novelties. Specifically, for these low hazard fireworks, the final rule allows an exception from the standard explosive device approval process for the classification into Division 1.4G. This exception is implemented by establishing an automated system within the PHMSA portal that allows for self-certification. This automated system, which may be used for the ground devices identified in this rulemaking, reviews the information provided by the applicant, which is the same as currently required under the HMR, and issues a certificate with a unique identifier (*i.e.,* an FW number). PHMSA personnel will no longer need to conduct a time-consuming review of each application under the automated system. This includes firsthand review of the diagram of the firework device and its chemical formulation sheets since compliance is certified by the applicant. Adopting the automated system is consistent with the directive in E.O. 12866 to implement alternatives to direct regulation and will not have any adverse impacts on public health and safety or the environment.[6]

Currently, the HMR requires explosives—such as fireworks—to be examined, classed, and approved by PHMSA. Certain fireworks may also be certified for transportation by a DOT-approved FCA instead. Streamlining the process to authorize transportation of low-hazard fireworks through self-certification will introduce efficiencies and maintain transportation safety under the HMR.

Though the NPRM proposed to include novelties in the self-certification process, PHMSA is not adopting that proposal in the final rule. Novelties historically have not been subject to a PHMSA ''approval process,'' and PHMSA has no information indicating that this practice presents a safety risk. In addition, commenters raised concerns in response to the NPRM that self-certification would impose a new regulatory burden on manufacturers of novelties. For these reasons, PHMSA is codifying the conditions and criteria found in the PHMSA guidance and 2018 APA Standard 87–1A to provide an exception from further regulation for seven novelties. Manufacturers need only comply with conditions and criteria in § 173.59 to claim the exception, as opposed to also certifying compliance using the PHMSA portal. Finally, a new definition for ''low hazard firework'' is added to § 173.59 consistent with the other changes adopted in the final rule.

PHMSA received a comment from SAAMI stating that the phrase ''low explosive hazard,'' as proposed in the new definition of ''low hazard fireworks'' in § 173.59, has distinct meaning and should not be generally conflated with ''low hazard fireworks.'' SAAMI understands that ''low hazard fireworks'' include medium explosive hazards, which PHMSA also classifies as Division 1.4 explosive hazards, and suggests that PHMSA use the term ''Division 1.4'' instead of ''low explosive hazard'' in the definition of ''low hazard fireworks.'' Division 1.4 includes both Division 1.4G and 1.4S, which SAAMI views as both medium and low explosive hazards encompassed by the term ''low hazard fireworks.'' PHMSA agrees that using the phrase ''low explosive hazard'' in the definition of ''low hazard fireworks'' may be confusing. Accordingly, the final rule refers generally to a Division 1.4 material in the new definition.

SAAMI also states that the fireworks industry uses the phrase ''low hazard fireworks'' for products classified as Division 1.4G, which SAAMI views as a medium explosive hazard, while some of these fireworks likely do have a Division 1.4S low explosive hazard. SAAMI states that the assignment of ''low hazard fireworks'' (as a Division 1.4G) may be a conservative approach in some cases, and that PHMSA may want to clarify that performance testing to obtain a Division 1.4S classification remains an alternative option. SAAMI specifically suggests that PHMSA should point out the availability of the option to continue using procedures provided in § 173.56 to obtain a Division 1.4S classification in the newly revised § 173.64(b). PHMSA agrees. The final rule revises § 173.64(b) to include additional language that low hazard consumer fireworks may still be classified as specified in § 173.56. This revision adds value by clarifying flexibilities offered in the HMR for manufacturers of fireworks devices while maintaining safe transportation of explosives material.

1. Ground Devices

Ground device fireworks certified using the PHMSA portal as conforming to the construction, formulation, and

[6] 58 FR 51735 (Oct. 4, 1993).

packaging requirements in § 173.64 are authorized for transport as ''UN0336, Fireworks, 1.4G.'' Seventeen ground devices are eligible for this new certification process: Chaser, Crackling Ball, Crackling Strip, Crackling Tube, Firecracker, Flasher/Strobe, Flitter Sparkler, Fountain Cone, Fountain Cylindrical, Fountain Nitrocellulose, Ground Spinner, Illuminating Torch, Smoke, Snake, Specialty Device, Wheel, and Sparklers (Wire Sparkler or Dipped Stick). Cake and combination devices are excluded from eligibility for certification using this automated system.

The final rule specifies the criteria for manufacturing (construction and formulation) and packaging of these ground devices. They are subject to both general and specific requirements as presented below in the table of Criteria for Ground Devices. General requirements for ground devices are as follows:

- Devices must use chemicals in conformance with the ''Permitted and Restricted Chemicals for Consumer Fireworks and Novelties'' table in APA Standard 87–1A, incorporated by reference in § 173.64. Note that all chemical specifications in the table are maximum limits.
- All reports are limited to 50 mg (0.050 g) of composition per report.
- All devices are initiated by a safety fuse with the exception of firecrackers, flitter sparklers, nitrocellulose fountains, snakes, wire sparklers, or dipped sticks.
- All devices must be finished (*i.e.,* cannot be a component intended to be used in another device).
- All devices must successfully pass a thermal stability test as specified in § 173.64(a)(2).
- Each device must be marked with the alphanumeric PHMSA-assigned identifier number (''FW number'') consisting of the letters FW, followed by the year and month issued, and a sequential number based on order of issuance that year (*e.g.,* FWYYYYMMSSSS). If the device is too small, the package that contains the device must display the certification number.

The specific requirements for each of the 17 eligible ground device types are as follows:

CRITERIA FOR GROUND DEVICES

Device	Definition	Specification [7]	Special conditions
Chaser	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube, which vents out the fuse end of the tube.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with multiple reports permitted.	None.
Crackling Ball	Consists of a spherical ball that contains small granules of chemical composition that upon ignition produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 72 grams of composition.
Crackling Strip	Consists of small granules of chemical composition adhered to and encased in a paper or cardboard wrapping that upon ignition produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 72 grams of composition.
Crackling Tube	Consists of a tube that contains small granules of chemical composition that upon ignition produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 72 grams of composition.
Firecracker	Consists of a small paper-wrapped or cardboard tube that produces a single report.	50 milligrams of chemical composition per firecracker.	Multiple firecrackers can be fused together to form a string There is no limit on number of firecrackers in a string.
Flasher/Strobe	Consists of a paper-wrapped or cardboard tube that produces a crackling/flashing/strobe light effect.	Five total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 60 grams of composition.
Flitter Sparkler	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube attached to a stick or wire Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame and/or a crackling effect.	25 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted. Formulations containing chlorates are limited to four grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulations being chlorates.	None.
Fountain (Cone)	Consists of a conical paper or cardboard container that upon ignition produces a shower consisting of any combination of colored sparks, color flame, crackle, smoke, whistle and/or micro star effects.	50 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.
Fountain (Cylindrical)	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition produces a shower consisting of any combination of colored sparks, color flame, crackle, smoke, and whistle or micro star effects.	100 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.
Fountain (Nitrocellulose)	Consists of a paper or cardboard cone or tube device that produces a shower of small sparks, color, and flame as its primary effect using nitrocellulose as the major chemical component.	15 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.
Ground Spinner	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition emits a shower of colored sparks that vents out of an orifice, causing the device to spin rapidly on the ground.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with reports permitted.	Multiple ground spinners can be fused together to form a string. Strings are limited to 20 grams of total composition.
Illuminating Torch	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition, emits a colored flame with or without crackles or sparks.	100 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.

CRITERIA FOR GROUND DEVICES—Continued

Device	Definition	Specification [7]	Special conditions
Smoke	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition, emits smoke as the primary effect.	100 total grams of chemical composition. All mixtures containing a chlorate must contain an equal amount or greater amount of a carbonate or bicarbonate.	Multiple smoke devices can be fused together to form a string. Strings are limited to 100 grams of total composition.
Snake	Consists of pressed pellet of pyrotechnic composition that upon ignition, produces a snake-like ash that expands in length as the composition is consumed.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports. Only formulations of nitrated asphalt, asphaltum, bitumen, pitch, and/or tar with an oxidizer (with or without a binder) are permitted.	None.
Specialty Device	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube(s), *eg,* in the shape of an animal or a small vehicle, that produces multiple effects.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with reports permitted.	No tube can contain more than 2 grams of composition; tubes cannot contain aerial components or internal shells.
Wheel	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube placed on the ground or attached to a post, by means of a nail, spike, or string Upon ignition, the wheel rotates producing a shower of sparks, color, crackling, flame, or whistle effects.	200 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports. No tube can contain more than 60 total grams of composition, which includes a 20 gram propellant limit per tube. Tubes cannot contain aerial components. Handles are not permitted.	None.
Wire Sparkler or Dipped Stick	Consists of a metal wire or wood dowel coated with a chemical composition Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame, and/or a crackling effect.	100 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted. Formulations containing chlorates are limited to four grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulations being chlorates.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 120 grams of composition.

To receive an FW number, a manufacturer must follow a multi-step process. First, the applicant must register with PHMSA to create an account (if not already an account holder within the PHMSA portal) and provide the following contact information: Company name, contact person, title, address, phone, and email address; manufacturing location; and U.S. agent (if applicable), address, phone, and email address. A unique profile is created for each applicant based on their email address, which allows for repeated access. If already registered as an account holder with the PHMSA portal, persons must ensure all necessary information is provided to allow for self-certification.

Then, the applicant must select the option for self-certification of a firework and provide specific information about a device and certify that the construction, chemical composition, and packaging are in accordance with the HMR. This step requires the applicant to respond to the following questions:

- What is the name and/or product code of the device? (Must be unique.)
- What is the category of the ground device? (There will be a drop-down menu with the 17 authorized ground devices.)
- What is the maximum weight in grams of chemical composition in the device?
- Does the device contain a report? (List how many reports.)
- What is the maximum weight in milligrams of any single report in the device?
- What is the total report weight in milligrams in the device?
- Did the device pass a thermal stability test?
- Does the device comply with the Permitted and Restricted Chemicals Table found in the APA Standard 87–1A, Appendix 1, currently incorporated by reference in § 173.64?
- Does the device use a safety fuse for ignition?
- Does the device meet one of the descriptions listed in § 173.64?
- Do you certify the device will be manufactured and transported in accordance with all the statements you attested to above?

A certificate will be issued for each device following the successful completion of the process. The certificate contains the unique alphanumeric identifier number described above.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) submitted comments requesting that PHMSA expand the self-certification process for low hazard fireworks to all consumer fireworks classified as Division 1.4G. PHMSA appreciates PRC's perspective on this issue but is not prepared at this time to expand the self-certification process to all consumer fireworks classified as Division 1.4G.

2. Novelties

Novelties conforming to the construction, formulation, and packaging requirements in § 173.64 are authorized for transport without further regulation except for air transport. Though considered Division 1.4 fireworks under PHMSA's regulatory scheme, consistent with the guidance previously discussed in this Section V.A, novelties that meet the requirements of § 173.64 are not regulated by PHMSA, except that they must be classed, described, and packaged as ''UN3178, Flammable solid, inorganic, n.o.s. (novelties), 4.1, PG II,'' when transported by air. Seven novelties are eligible for this exception: Booby Trap/Pull Apart, Novelty Flitter Sparkler, Party Popper, Novelty Snake, Snapper, Novelty Wire Sparkler or Novelty Dipped Stick, and Novelty Smoke Device.

Novelties must comply with both the general and specific requirements as presented below in the table of Criteria for Novelties. The general requirements for novelties are as follows:

- Devices that do not list specific chemical restrictions must use chemicals in conformance with the permitted and restricted chemical table in the APA Standard 87–1A, Appendix 1, incorporated by reference in § 173.64. Note that all chemical specifications in the table are maximum limits.
- No reports are permitted in novelties.
- Smoke devices must be initiated by a fuse.
- Devices must be finished and packaged in the inner packagings.

[7] This column describes the chemical composition weight limits per tube and whether reports are permitted.

• All novelties must successfully pass a thermal stability test specified in § 173.64(a)(2).

The specific requirements for each of the seven novelties are as follows:

CRITERIA FOR NOVELTIES

Novelty	Definition	Specifications	Special conditions
Booby Trap/Pull Apart	Device that is actuated by means of friction Pulling a string or strings apart activates the device, producing a noise effect.	0.016 total grams of chemical composition, which is limited to barium, potassium, and/or sodium chlorate with red phosphorus.	Inner packages must not contain more than 12 devices.
Novelty Flitter Sparkler ...	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube attached to a stick or wire Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame, and/or a crackling effect.	Five total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted Formulations containing chlorates are limited to four grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulation being chlorates.	Inner packages must not contain more than eight devices, and an ignition fuse is permitted.
Party Poppers	Device that is actuated by means of friction Pulling a string or trigger activates the device, producing a noise effect and releasing paper streamers or confetti Common examples resemble champagne bottles and toy pistols.	0.016 total grams of chemical composition, which is limited to barium, potassium, and/or sodium chlorate with red phosphorus.	Inner packages must not contain more than 72 devices.
Novelty Snakes and Glow-Worms.	Consists of pressed pellet of pyrotechnic composition that upon ignition, produce a snake-like ash that expands in length as the composition is consumed.	Two total grams of chemical composition Only formulations of nitrated asphalt, asphaltum, bitumen, pitch, and/or tar with an oxidizer (with or without a binder) are permitted.	Inner packaging must not contain more than 25 devices.
Snappers	Consists of small, paper-wrapped items When dropped, the device activates, producing a noise effect.	0.001 total grams of silver fulminate coated on small bits of sand or gravel.	Inner packages must not contain more than 50 devices with sawdust or other impact absorbing materials.
Novelty Wire Sparkler or Novelty Dipped Stick.	Consists of a metal wire or wood dowel coated with a chemical composition Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame, and/or a crackling effect.	25 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted Formulations containing perchlorates are limited to five grams Formulations containing chlorates are limited to four grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulations being chlorates.	Inner packages must not contain more than eight devices.
Novelty Smoke Device ...	Consists of an item that upon ignition, emits smoke as the only effect.	Five total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted All mixtures containing a chlorate must contain an equal amount or greater amount of a carbonate or bicarbonate (*e.g.,* calcium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate).	Inner packages must not contain more than 72 devices.

Novelties must be in inner packagings that are further packed in strong outer packagings. The packages must conform to the general packaging requirements of § 173.24. The maximum gross weight of a completed package may not exceed 30 kilograms (66 pounds). In addition, each outer package must be plainly marked with ''NOVELTIES, IN CONFORMANCE WITH § 173.64, NOT REGULATED, EXCEPT WHEN TRANSPORTED BY AIR.'' If an overpack is used and the marking on packages contained therein is not visible, the overpack must also be marked with this marking. As stated earlier, when novelties are transported by air, they must be classed and described as ''UN3178, Flammable solid, inorganic, n.o.s. (novelties), 4.1, PG II,'' and packaged for air transport accordingly.

APA submitted comments requesting that PHMSA expand the exceptions for the seven eligible novelty devices to include fuseless smoke devices, fireworks fuses, and pull string smoke devices that do not require a fuse.[8] PHMSA believes more information is needed to support expanding the group of novelties that are eligible for the exception beyond those proposed in the NPRM. PHMSA suggests APA provide that supporting information in a petition for a rulemaking.

3. Fireworks Identification Scheme

As a baseline, fireworks must be approved and assigned an explosives approval number by PHMSA (*i.e.,* an EX number) based on actual testing and classification prior to transportation to, from, and within the United States based on the requirements for a new explosive under § 173.56. However, § 173.64 permits Division 1.3G and 1.4G fireworks to be approved without prior examination based on certain conditions, including compliance with the provisions of the 2018 APA Standards 87–1A, 1B, and 1C, which are incorporated by reference in § 171.7. Further, § 173.65 permits—in lieu of an approval—Division 1.4G consumer fireworks (as defined in § 173.59) to be certified by a DOT-approved FCA. After the FCA reviews the consumer fireworks application and certifies it meets the requirements, the FCA assigns an FC number.

The final rule streamlines the process for approval or certification of ground device fireworks by allowing self-certification using the PHMSA portal. Manufacturers will certify compliance with specified conditions and limitations online and receive a certificate with a unique identifier number (*i.e.,* an FW number) for each firework type. The FW number will identify the ground device that has been certified through the newly established automated system as specified § 173.64. An example of an FW number would be ''FW2023100001'' consisting of the letters FW, followed by the year and month issued, and a sequential number based on order of issuance that year.

PHMSA requested comment on the supply chain implications, the economic impact, and safety concerns associated with the proposed FW numbering system, as well as comment on how to implement the changes if they are adopted. PHMSA received comment from APA stating that novelties have not been required to have an EX approval number since 2009. APA did not understand why PHMSA would propose to now require manufacturers of novelties to apply (*i.e.,* self-certify) for an ''FW'' number. APA further mentioned that requiring an

[8] APA is a safety and trade association of the fireworks industry representing manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, suppliers, and professional display companies. The APA supports and promotes safety standards for all aspects of fireworks.

''FW'' number contradicts the 2018 APA Standard 87–1A, which states that ''[a]n EX-approval or FC certification letter is not required to ship the novelty devices, specifically those listed in the APA Standard 87–1A, into or within the United States.'' APA stated that requiring an ''FW'' number will be a burdensome task for manufacturers—requiring manufacturers to certify novelties, and develop diagrams and technical files, along with the tedious process of entering data in the PHMSA portal.

PHMSA appreciates APA's concerns and is not adopting the proposal to include novelties in the automated self-certification process. Given the historical transport of these low hazard fireworks since issuance of the guidance without any known or anecdotal incidents in transportation, PHMSA believes adopting requirements for manufacturers to certify compliance and supply information to PHMSA in the portal imposes an undue burden without a corresponding safety benefit. Yet, PHMSA can still provide certainty for the exception. Therefore, the final rule only adopts the conditions and criteria for relief from transportation regulations for novelties into the HMR. PHMSA notes that novelties will still be regulated for transportation by air.

PHMSA also received comment from APA stating that requiring a diagram for the self-certification of both ground devices and novelties be uploaded with the application is a redundant action. APA stated that these types of low hazard fireworks are well-known and well described in the 2018 APA 87–1A; therefore, the diagrams are not necessary. Though PHMSA generally agrees with APA's statement, a diagram of the device aids in determining compliance by providing useful information on the category of the device and quantity of pyrotechnic in the device. PHMSA's experience has generally shown that some applicants have submitted diagrams for categories of devices that are outside the scope of the approval. In lieu of the proposal to include diagram(s) for ground devices with the information submitted to self-certify the fireworks device, the final rule requires applicants to maintain a record demonstrating compliance, which may include information such as a drawing of the device. The record must be accessible at or through the principal place of business for five years after the device is manufactured and must be made available, upon request.

APA also stated its understanding is that PHMSA currently has a quality assurance (QA) process for reviewing applications certified by FCAs. APA urges PHMSA to have a ''similar and consistent process'' for the low hazard fireworks subject to the automated system. Without such a process, APA does not support the proposal for self-certification of select ground devices. PHMSA provides assurances to APA and the public that we have a quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) process to monitor low hazard fireworks self-certifications modeled after QA/QC process we have for the FCA program.

PHMSA also received comment in the form of several questions from American Promotional Events, Inc., and its subsidiaries (collectively known as TNT Fireworks)—an importer, distributor, and transporter of consumer fireworks and novelties in the U.S. TNT Fireworks requested clarification of the self-certification process for low hazard fireworks. PHMSA has paraphrased TNT Fireworks' questions and provided responses as follows:

- *Can a U.S. designated agent certify an application for an FW Number on behalf of a non-U.S. manufacturer?*

○ A U.S. designated agent may submit the application on behalf of a non-U.S. manufacturer, but the application must be certified by the non-U.S. manufacturer. See **Federal Register** Notice 10–9 [9]—Clarification of the Fireworks Approvals Policy. As noted at 76 FR 38056, ''[w]hile firework classification approvals will only be issued to fireworks manufacturers, PHMSA will accept fireworks approval applications from the manufacturer's U.S. designated agent on behalf of the manufacturer, as well as the manufacturer itself'' and further at 76 FR 38057, ''[i]t is the responsibility of the manufacturer to sign the application and certify that the device conforms.'' Similarly, for self-certification of low hazard fireworks, U.S. agents may submit the application information on behalf of a non-U.S. manufacturer, but the manufacturer is required to certify. The automated system allows for a U.S. agent to submit an application and for the manufacturer to follow up on that same application to certify the firework.

- *What is the expected turnaround time for the issuance of an FW number upon the submission of an application? Would the FW number be issued automatically upon self-certification of a firework?*

○ As previously stated in the final rule, the self-certification process is an automated system. Manufacturers of information submitted for ground devices that meet the required criteria for the construction, formulation, and packaging immediately receive a certificate with the unique FW identifier number for each firework device. The expectation is that this process can take as little as five minutes from start to finish, especially where manufacturers already have an account with the PHMSA portal.

- *Will there be an alternative method to apply other than electronically through the PHMSA portal?*

○ The PHMSA portal will be the only method of application submittal with respect to explosives approvals applications. See the Section V.C. *Amending the Approvals Process* discussion of changes.

- *Can a U.S. agent of a non-U.S. manufacturer terminate an active EX approval and if so, are there safeguards to ensure that an EX approval is not inadvertently terminated?*

○ A U.S. agent may not terminate an EX approval. The request must be submitted separately by the manufacturer through the PHMSA portal for review and handling by PHMSA.

B. Authorizing the Self-Classification of Ammunition With Tracer Projectiles

Provided certain conditions are met, 49 CFR 173.56(h) authorizes self-classification of certain types of small arms cartridges into Division 1.4S. In particular, § 173.56(h)(3) authorizes ammunition with inert projectile or blank ammunition. Tracer projectiles use a small amount of pyrotechnic composition to provide visible light upon exit from a firearm barrel. Tracer projectiles cannot be considered as an ''inert'' projectile due to the presence of the pyrotechnic composition.

However, the quantity of pyrotechnic composition on tracer projectiles is negligible compared to the quantities of pyrotechnic material contained within the cartridge itself. The presence of such small quantities of pyrotechnics neither increases the hazard as indicated when subject to a bonfire test, nor does its presence make unintentional initiation any more likely. The difference in hazard between inert projectile cartridges and the same cartridges with a small amount of pyrotechnic composition for tracer projectiles is negligible. Furthermore, there are no additional concerns related to tracer projectiles that justify exclusion from the self-classification provision of § 173.56(h)(3).

PHMSA received comment from SAAMI suggesting that the term ''tracer projectiles'' be used in place of the proposed parenthetical ''(including tracer ammunition)'' to clarify that the exception only authorizes self-classification when the tracer is on the

[9] 76 FR 38053 (Jun. 29, 2011).

projectile, which is a narrower scope of what might be included in the more general term ''tracer ammunition.'' Furthermore, SAAMI suggested a conforming revision to the packaging exceptions for limited quantities of small arms cartridges classed as Division 1.4S explosive materials in § 173.63(b) to also include a reference to tracer projectiles self-classed as Division 1.4S in accordance with § 173.56(h)(3). SAAMI believed the logic of the proposed addition of self-classification for tracer ammunition in the latter naturally coincides with the former limited quantity exceptions. SAAMI also made mention of use of the term ''projectile'' in the singular in § 173.56(h)(3) and in the plural in § 173.63(b); and suggested using the plural in both regulations. Here, PHMSA notes that, in accordance with 49 CFR 171.9—Rules of construction, unless context requires otherwise, words imparting the singular include plural and vice versa. Regarding use of projectile or projectiles, context does not require otherwise.

PHMSA otherwise agrees with the suggestions offered by SAAMI. The conditions for self-classification in § 173.56(h)(3) are the same as the conditions for eligibility for packaging exceptions in § 173.63(b)(1)(ii)(B). Though not proposed, PHMSA views making the same change to § 173.63(b) to include tracer projectile(s) as ammunition eligible for exception from full regulation as a limited quantity material as a logical outgrowth of the proposal to allow tracer projectiles to be self-classified as Division 1.4S material. PHMSA also agrees with the subtlety of the scope change to refer to ''tracer projectiles'' instead of full cartridges. Therefore, PHMSA adopts the following changes:

- Revise § 173.56(h)(3) to include tracer projectiles; and
- Revise § 173.63(b)(1)(ii)(B) to include tracer projectiles. Note that PHMSA is also making an editorial change to § 173.63(b)(1)(ii). The list of materials that may be shipped as limited quantities includes an ''and'' conjunction following paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(E), but the ''and'' should instead follow paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(F) to complete the list with paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(G).

These revisions provide clarity that ammunition with tracer projectiles is eligible for self-classification as Division 1.4S and associated packaging exceptions. The changes maintain the current level of safety for transportation of small arms cartridges.

C. Process for Submitting Approval Applications

PHMSA currently provides several options for submitting applications for approvals, including by mail, email, and fax and through the PHMSA portal, though this latter method is not codified as an option. The final rule amends 49 CFR 107.705 to include the PHMSA portal as a submittal option for all approvals. The final rule also establishes the PHMSA portal as the only method for submittal and acceptance of explosives approval applications (including ground device self-certifications). Transitioning to an all-electronic system will improve efficiency. Delays occur when PHMSA personnel must transcribe application information into the portal database due to incomplete data, inability to read handwritten materials, and so forth. Where missing data or uncertainties are discovered, PHMSA personnel must follow up with the applicant or otherwise reject an application, which causes further delays. Electronic submissions improve efficiency for the applicant on the front end (data entry) and for PHMSA on the back end (review and issuance of approval). The PHMSA portal provides online access to PHMSA services, creating a single source for all hazardous materials explosives applications and data. Persons need only to register to create an account, if not having done so already, to access the PHMSA portal. Moreover, an average of three million metric tons of explosives are consumed annually in the U.S., of which a significant portion goes to mining. Explosives are essential for energy production and the manufacture of metal and mineral products. Improved efficiency in processing means shorter turnaround times for approvals of explosives which supports the unleashing of American energy.[10]

PHMSA received comments from APA, AFSL, SAAMI, TNT Fireworks and UP, a U.S. designated agent for service for multiple international fireworks manufacturers. These commenters all requested that PHMSA maintain alternatives to the PHMSA portal for submission of explosives approval applications to provide applicants with additional flexibility. PHMSA acknowledges the commenters concerns but is committed to this electronic resource for explosives approval applications. PHMSA views any potential benefits from maintaining alternative submission methods as outweighed by the efficiency provided by a single process. Though PHMSA acknowledges there may be unforeseen service interruptions with the PHMSA portal that may negatively impact the ability to submit applications, our expectation is that any service interruption will be short-lived. The use of the PHMSA portal as the only method of submittal for all explosives approvals will reduce the paperwork burden on applicants and PHMSA personnel. The overall net benefits include an estimated cost savings of 846 labor hours annually. See the RIA for a full discussion.

PHMSA notes that SAAMI inquired as to why the processing of approvals electronically is limited to include only energetic approvals at this time. PHMSA streamlined the fireworks approval process in this rulemaking and viewed it as an opportunity to further modernize our systems. PHMSA considered including other approvals. However, because this rulemaking is focused on energetic materials, PHMSA determined that additional public notice and comment should be provided before expanding the electronic process to other approvals. PHMSA anticipates addressing electronic-only approval submissions for other approval types in a separate, future rulemaking.

SAAMI commented that the use of an online portal will cause information security issues because § 173.56(b) will require the electronic submittal of information that may be potentially proprietary and security-sensitive. SAAMI stated that the PHMSA portal may suffer from cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and that its use may cause a stakeholder to be out of compliance with security regulations. Contractors serving the Federal Government and its agencies are required to protect certain categories of unclassified information provided by or for the U.S. Government, including the systems on which the data is stored. One of those categories, Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), replaces legacy labels For Official Use Only (FOUO), Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU), and Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES). CUI is government-created or owned UNCLASSIFIED information that allows for, or requires, safeguarding and dissemination controls in accordance with laws, regulations, or government-wide policies. It is sensitive information that does not meet the criteria for classification but must still be protected.

Furthermore, SAAMI stated that its members' most sensitive applications are classified as secret and above. As such they go through the Department of War (*i.e.* Department of Defense) examiners and process, as opposed to

[10] 90 FR 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025).

PHMSA. SAAMI stated that they occasionally have some applications that go through PHMSA that are sensitive but being ''commercial'' in nature they have a designation that is less than secret. SAAMI further stated that in the rare instances when they must submit a ''sensitive'' application, they use hand delivery or a commercial courier service. SAAMI is concerned that PHMSA seems to be prohibiting these delivery methods, and requests that PHMSA maintain the options for mail or hand delivery, which requires a solution beyond the current PHMSA portal or email processes.

PHMSA acknowledges SAAMI's concerns and reiterates that the PHMSA portal system complies with relevant Federal information security laws, including the Computer Security Act of 1987 (40 U.S.C. 1441 *et seq.*), the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 11101 *et seq.*), and the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3541 *et seq*). In addition, it meets Federal Government IT security requirements outlined in OMB Circular A–130, Management of Federal Information Resources, Appendix III, Security of Federal Automated Information Resources, and adheres to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Guidelines. Furthermore, for safeguarding data within the PHMSA portal, the following measures are implemented:

- Data encryption is applied both in transit and at rest.
- Secure Socket Layer (SSL) connection is employed for portal connectivity, with regularly updated certificates.
- Weak ciphers are disabled to enhance security.
- Continuous application of patches and updates is carried out to mitigate vulnerabilities and ensure system integrity.

Overall, these measures help to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data within the PHMSA portal, safeguarding it against unauthorized access, tampering, or interception. PHMSA will maintain as proposed the PHMSA portal as the only method of explosives approvals submissions. Nonetheless, PHMSA reminds submitters that its systems are not cleared to process controlled or classified information, and that submitters should contact PHMSA in advance if it determines that any information it intends to submit has been labeled as CUI or Classified by another government agency.

D. Voluntary Termination of Approvals

Finally, the final rule revises the approvals process to allow approval holders to request termination of approvals. The final rule also clarifies that when an approval holder voluntarily requests termination, PHMSA is not required to issue a letter providing them an opportunity to show cause why the approval should not be terminated. PHMSA received comment from APA and an individual asking for clarification on how existing products, including products placed in transportation before their approval is terminated, would be treated. For example, one of these commenters asked if an approval holder requests termination of its EX approval, but boxes of that product are in the transportation chain, would those boxes now contain unapproved explosives.

PHMSA clarifies that any product placed into transportation in commerce while the approval was valid will continue to be valid until it reaches its destination. This also applies to product shipped for disposal purposes.

VI. Section-by-Section Review

The following is a section-by-section review of the final rule amendments.

A. Part 107

Section 107.705

The requirements for submitting registrations, reports, and applications for approval are prescribed under 49 CFR 107.705. PHMSA revises paragraph (a)(1) to clearly specify that the PHMSA portal may be used to file all types of approval applications with PHMSA. Further, with respect to explosives approvals applications, PHMSA specifies the PHMSA portal as the required method for submittal of applications and removes options to submit those explosives applications via mail, email, or fax for all explosives approvals.

Section 107.713

Section 107.713 prescribes procedures for the issuance, modification, and termination of approvals required by the HMR. PHMSA revises the introductory text to paragraph (c) to refer to new paragraph (e); and adds a new paragraph (e) to allow approval holders (of any type) to request termination of an approval voluntarily. PHMSA will then issue a termination letter, rather than a show cause letter. Hazardous materials offered into transportation or being transported in accordance with a valid approval prior to the approval's termination may continue to be transported to its destination without concern of being an unapproved shipment. However, where hazardous materials may need to be transported for disposal purposes after the termination of the approval, a temporary approval or special permit will need to be obtained should the hazardous material not otherwise be allowed for transport.

B. Part 171

Section 171.8

Section 171.8 provides definitions and abbreviations applicable to the HMR. PHMSA adds the new term ''FW number'' and defines it as a unique identifier number assigned by the Associate Administrator to a low hazard Division 1.4G consumer firework device that has been certified in accordance with the provisions of § 173.64. Note that PHMSA has revised the proposed version of the definition of ''FW number'' to refer to the Associate Administrator instead of ''PHMSA'' and to define it as a unique identified number. PHMSA received no comment on the proposed definition and adopts as revised in this final rule.

C. Part 173

Section 173.56

Section 173.56 prescribes the procedures for classification and approval of new explosives. Small arms cartridges meeting the criteria in paragraph (h) may be self-classified as Division 1.4S by the manufacturer. PHMSA modifies § 173.56(h)(3) to provide clarity that tracer ammunition (*i.e.,* ammunition with tracer projectiles) is eligible for self-classification as a Division 1.4S material, provided the other criteria in paragraph (h) are met. This revision maintains the current level of safety for transportation of small arms cartridges while providing greater understanding to shippers of what types of small arms cartridges may be self-classified in accordance with paragraph (h).

Section 173.59

Section 173.59 provides informational descriptions of terms for explosives. PHMSA adds a separate term and description for ''low hazard fireworks.'' The addition of this description maintains the current level of safety with the HMR by ensuring proper understanding of the meaning of low hazard fireworks for purposes of the provisions adopted in this rulemaking.

Section 173.63

Section 173.63 provides exceptions from the general packaging requirements for certain explosives, including small arms cartridges that

may be shipped as limited quantity material under specified conditions in paragraph (b). PHMSA revises paragraph (b) to include tracer ammunition (*i.e.,* ammunition with tracer projectiles) consistent with the revision made to § 173.56(h) to allow classification of this material as Division 1.4S without obtaining an EX approval based on eligibility criteria. Paragraph (b) provides this same eligibility criteria to allow transport as a limited quantity material and, therefore, ammunition with tracer projectiles classed as Division 1.4S may also be transported as limited quantity material subject to specified conditions.

Section 173.64

Section 173.64 prescribes classification and approval exceptions from the standard explosives approval process for Division 1.3 and 1.4 fireworks. PHMSA revises § 173.64 to include further exceptions for low hazard (consumer) fireworks that qualify for self-certification by the manufacturer. Specifically, new paragraph (b) outlines construction and formulation criteria for self-certification of certain ground devices as Division 1.4 fireworks. Seventeen ground devices are eligible for self-certification and classification as Division 1.4G fireworks. In addition, new paragraph (b) outlines criteria for exception from regulation for certain novelties. Finally, paragraph (b) includes provisions for maintaining supporting documentation demonstrating compliance for the manufacture of ground devices. The supporting information includes the assigned FW number and may contain other pertinent information such as the category of device, drawing(s), chemical composition list, gram quantities, and, if applicable, the U.S. agent of service information. Except for transportation by air, seven novelties are eligible for exception from the HMR. PHMSA also makes editorial changes to paragraph (a) consistent with revision to paragraph (b), such as adding a title to paragraph (a) and clarifying further the reference to § 173.65 for certification of Division 1.4G consumer fireworks by an FCA. These revisions maintain the current level of safety for the transportation of fireworks by ensuring proper understanding of which ground devices and novelties may qualify for self-certification, exception EX approval requirements, and exception from requirements of the HMR.

VII. Regulatory Analyses and Notices

A. Legal Authority

This final rule is published under the authority of the Secretary of Transportation set forth in the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Laws (49 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*) and delegated to the PHMSA Administrator pursuant to 49 CFR 1.97.

B. Executive Orders 12866; DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 (*Regulatory Planning and Review*), as well as the Department's rulemaking procedures in 49 CFR part 5 and DOT Order 2100.6B (*Policies and Procedures for Rulemaking*),[11] require agencies to regulate in the ''most cost-effective manner,'' to make a ''reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs,'' and to develop regulations that ''impose the least burden on society.'' [12] The Department, in 49 CFR part 5 and DOT Order 2100.6B, specifies that regulations should generally ''not be issued unless their benefits are expected to exceed their costs.'' In arriving at those conclusions, E.O. 12866 requires that agencies should consider ''both quantifiable measures . . . and qualitative measures of costs and benefits that are difficult to quantify'' and ''maximize net benefits . . . unless a statute requires another regulatory approach.'' Executive Order 12866 also requires that ''agencies should assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives, including the alternative of not regulating.'' The Department's regulatory procedures further direct that PHMSA and other DOT Operating Administrations must generally choose the ''least costly regulatory alternative that achieves the relevant objectives'' unless required by law or compelling safety need.

E.O. 12866 and the Department's procedures also require that PHMSA submit ''significant regulatory actions'' to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Executive Office of the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. This final rule is not a significant regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 12866 and has not designated this rule as a ''major rule'' as defined by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*). PHMSA has complied with the requirements in E.O. 12866 and the Department's regulatory procedures in 49 CFR part 5 and DOT Order 2100.6B and determined this final rule will result in cost savings by introducing efficiencies into the explosives approval process and providing clarity on applicability of the hazardous materials regulations and programs.

C. Executive Orders 14192 and 14219

PHMSA has determined this final rule is an E.O. 14192 (*Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*) deregulatory action.[13] PHMSA has developed a detailed economic analysis in the RIA, a copy of which has been placed in the docket, and determined that the total costs of the rule on the regulated community will be less than zero. This final rule does not implicate any of the factors identified in section 2(a) of E.O. 14219 indicative of a regulation that is ''unlawful . . . [or] that undermine[s] the national interest.'' [14]

D. Energy-Related Executive Orders 13211, 14154, and 14156

PHMSA has analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in E.O. 14156 (*Declaring a National Energy Emergency*) and E.O. 14154 (*Unleashing American Energy*).[15] The president has declared a national emergency to address America's inadequate energy development production, transportation, refining, and generation capacity and asserted a Federal policy to unleash American energy by ensuring access to abundant supplies of reliable, affordable energy from inter alia, the removal of ''undue burden[s]'' on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy resources. PHMSA finds this final rule is consistent with each of E.O. 14156 and E.O. 14154.

In addition, this final rule is not a ''significant energy action'' under E.O. 13211 (*Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use*),[16] which requires Federal agencies to prepare a Statement of Energy Effects for any ''significant energy action.'' Because this final rule is not a significant action under E.O. 12866, it will not have a significant adverse effect on supply, distribution, or energy use; accordingly, OIRA has not designated this final rule as a significant energy action.

E. Executive Order 13132; Federalism

PHMSA analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in E.O. 13132

[11] *See* Department of Transportation, *Administrative Rulemaking, Guidance, and Enforcement Procedures,* 91 FR 22431 (Apr. 27, 2026).

[12] 58 FR 51735 (Oct. 4, 1993).

[13] 90 FR 9065 (Feb. 6, 2025).

[14] 90 FR 10583 (Feb. 19, 2025).

[15] 90 FR 8433 (Jan. 29, 2025); 90 FR 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025).

[16] 66 FR 28355 (May 22, 2001).

(*Federalism*) and the Presidential Memorandum (*Preemption*) published in the **Federal Register** on May 22, 2009.[17] E.O. 13132 requires agencies to assure meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that may have ''substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.'' The Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation laws contain an express preemption provision at 49 U.S.C. 5125(b) that preempts State, local, and Tribal requirements on certain covered subjects, unless the non-Federal requirements are ''substantively the same'' as the Federal requirements, including the following:

(1) The designation, description, and classification of hazardous material;

(2) The packing, repacking, handling, labeling, marking, and placarding of hazardous material;

(3) The preparation, execution, and use of shipping documents related to hazardous material and requirements related to the number, contents, and placement of those documents;

(4) The written notification, recording, and reporting of the unintentional release in transportation of hazardous material; and

(5) The design, manufacture, fabrication, inspection, marking, maintenance, recondition, repair, or testing of a packaging or container represented, marked, certified, or sold as qualified for use in transporting hazardous material in commerce.

Though this final rule may operate to preempt some State requirements, it will not impose any regulation that has substantial direct effects on the States, the relationship between the national government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. The preemptive effect of the regulatory amendments in this final rule is limited to the minimum level necessary to achieve the objectives of the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Laws. Therefore, the consultation and funding requirements of E.O. 13132 do not apply.

F. Executive Order 13175

PHMSA analyzed this rulemaking in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in E.O. 13175 (*Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*) and DOT Order 5301.1A (*Department of Transportation Tribal Consultation Policy and Procedures*).[18] E.O. 13175 requires agencies to assure meaningful and timely input from Tribal government representatives in developing rules that significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities by imposing ''substantial direct compliance costs'' or ''substantial direct effects'' on such communities, or the relationship and distribution of power between the Federal Government and Tribes.

PHMSA assessed the impact of the rulemaking and determined it would not significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities or Indian Tribal governments. The rulemaking's regulatory amendments have a broad, national scope. Therefore, this final rule will not significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities, much less impose substantial compliance costs on Tribal governments, or mandate Tribal action. For these reasons, the funding and consultation requirements of Executive Order 13175 and DOT Order 5301.1A do not apply.

G. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to consider conducting a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) for a final rule that has been subject to notice-and-comment rulemaking under the APA unless the agency head certifies that the final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. E.O. 13272 (*Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking*) obliges agencies to establish procedures and policies to promote compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act.[19] DOT posts its implementing guidance on a dedicated web page.[20]

This final rule has been developed in accordance with E.O. 13272 and DOT's procedures and policies to promote compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act. As explained above, this final rule will provide an annual net cost savings of approximately $0.22 million because it facilitates the transportation of hazardous materials by streamlining the regulatory requirements for energetics manufacturers and shippers while maintaining the current level of safety for transportation of these items. Specifically, it amends the classification and approval process of certain low hazard Class 1 explosive materials (*i.e.,* fireworks) and clarifies classification eligibility for ammunition with tracer projectiles. Finally, this rulemaking will require the use of the PHMSA portal, an online application, as the sole method to submit explosives approval applications, thereby reducing, for example, the fireworks application approval processing time from 28 days to several hours, and will allow voluntary termination of approvals.

Therefore, PHMSA certifies the final rule does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

H. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d) require that PHMSA provide interested members of the public and affected agencies an opportunity to comment on information and recordkeeping requests.

PHMSA has analyzed this final rule in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. PHMSA currently accounts for information collection and recordkeeping burdens under OMB Control Number 2137–0057 *Approvals for Hazardous Materials.* In this final rule, PHMSA revises 49 CFR 173.64 applicable to low hazard fireworks that may impact the burden accounted for in OMB Control Number 2137–0057. The addition in § 173.64 requires ground device firework manufacturers to provide information in association with pursuing self-certification as low hazard fireworks for purposes of transportation. PHMSA determines the impact of these amendments to be negligible as the information is the same information currently required by the HMR under EX approval requirements but now are required as part of the automated self-certification process.

I. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA; 2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*) requires agencies to assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and Tribal governments, and the private sector. For any final rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, or Tribal governments, or by the private sector, of $100 million or more in 1996 dollars in any given year, the agency must prepare, amongst other things, a written statement that qualitatively and quantitatively assesses the costs and benefits of the Federal mandate.

[17] 64 FR 43255 (Aug. 10, 1999); 74 FR 24693 (May 22, 2009).

[18] 65 FR 67249 (Nov. 9, 2000).

[19] 67 FR 53461 (Aug. 16, 2002).

[20] DOT, *Rulemaking Requirements Related to Small Entities* (last accessed Sept. 3, 2024), available at *https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/rulemaking-requirements-concerning-small-entities.*

As explained in the RIA, available for review in the docket, this final rule does not impose unfunded mandates under UMRA because it does not result in costs of $100 million or more (in 1996 dollars) per year for either State, local, or Tribal governments, or to the private sector.

J. National Environmental Policy Act

PHMSA has analyzed this rule pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and has determined it is excluded categorically under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(20), which applies to the promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives. Under Section 9 of DOT Order 5610.1D, PHMSA may apply a categorical exclusion (CE) established in another Operating Administration's procedures. PHMSA followed the requirements outlined in DOT Order 5610.1D to apply the Federal Highway Administration's CE to this deregulatory action. PHMSA does not anticipate any adverse environmental impacts from this rule, and PHMSA has determined no unusual circumstances are present under 23 CFR 771.117(b). PHMSA's Categorical Exclusion Determination memo for this action is available on PHMSA's website.[21]

K. Privacy Act Statement

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to *www.regulations.gov,* as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at *https://www.dot.gov/privacy.* DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement is in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2000, and is available for review on DOT's website at *https://www.dot.gov/privacy.*

L. Executive Order 13609 and International Trade Analysis

E.O. 13609 (*Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation*) requires that Federal agencies consider whether the impacts associated with significant variations between domestic and international regulatory approaches are unnecessary or may impair the ability of American business to export and compete internationally.[22] In meeting shared challenges involving health, safety, labor, security, environmental, and other issues, international regulatory cooperation can identify approaches that are at least as protective as those that are or would be adopted in the absence of such cooperation. International regulatory cooperation can also reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

Similarly, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–39), as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103–465), prohibits Federal agencies from establishing any standards or engaging in related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. For purposes of these requirements, Federal agencies may participate in the establishment of international standards, if the standards have a legitimate domestic objective, such as providing for safety, and do not operate to exclude imports that meet this objective. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards.

PHMSA engages with international standards setting bodies to protect the safety of the American public. PHMSA has assessed the effects of the final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not cause unnecessary obstacles to foreign trade.

M. Severability

PHMSA finds that the various provisions of this final rule are severable and able to function independently if severed from each other. Thus, in the event a court were to invalidate one or more of this final rule's unique provisions, the remaining provisions should stand and continue in effect.

N. Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14082

E.O. 14082 (*Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*) directed the Federal Government to improve its efforts to identify, deter, and respond to ''persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns.''[23] PHMSA has considered the effects of this final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments materially would not affect the cybersecurity risk profile for affected entities.

List of Subjects

49 CFR Part 107

Administrative practice and procedure, Hazardous materials transportation, Packaging and containers, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

49 CFR Part 171

Exports, Hazardous materials transportation, Hazardous waste, Imports, Incorporation by reference, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

49 CFR Part 173

Hazardous materials transportation, Incorporation by reference, Packaging and containers, Radioactive materials, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

In consideration of the foregoing, PHMSA amends 49 CFR chapter I as follows:

PART 107—HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM PROCEDURES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 107 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 5101–5128, 44701; Pub. L. 101–410 Section 4; Pub. L. 104–121 Sections 212–213; Pub. L. 104–134 Section 31001; Pub. L. 114–74 Section 701 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note); 49 CFR 1.81 and 1.97; 33 U.S.C. 1321.

■ 2. In § 107.705, revise paragraph (a)(1) to read as follows:

§ 107.705 Registrations, reports, and applications for approval.

(a) * * *

(1) File using the following methods:

(i) *Submission methods.* Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section, the registration, report, or application may be filed with the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Applications may be filed using the PHMSA portal at *https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/* or, alternatively, may be filed with any attached supporting documentation in an appropriate format by fax at 202–366–3753 or 202–366–3308, or by email at *approvals@dot.gov.*

(ii) *Explosive approval applications.* Filing of explosives approval and fireworks approval applications, as well as certifications of low hazard fireworks, must be submitted using the PHMSA portal *https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/.*

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 107.713, revise paragraph (c) introductory text and add paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 107.713 Approval modification, suspension or termination.

* * * * *

[21] DOT, PHMSA, *Implementing Procedures* (Aug. 28, 2025), available at *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/planning-and-analytics/environmental-analysis-and-compliance/implementing-procedures.*

[22] 77 FR 26413 (May 4, 2012).

[23] 86 FR 26633 (May 17, 2021).

(c) Except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section, before an approval is modified, suspended, or terminated, the Associate Administrator notifies the holder in writing of the proposed action and the reasons for it, and provides an opportunity to show cause why the proposed action should not be taken.

* * * * *

(e) The Associate Administrator may terminate an approval at the request of the approval holder based on the holder's determination that it is no longer needed. The approval holder must submit the request in writing to the Associate Administrator using the PHMSA portal at *https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/*. The Associate Administrator will notify the approval holder of termination.

PART 171—GENERAL INFORMATION, REGULATIONS, AND DEFINITIONS

■ 4. The authority citation for part 171 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 5101–5128, 44701; Pub. L. 101–410 section 4; Pub. L. 104–134, section 31001; Pub. L. 114–74 section 701 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note); 49 CFR 1.81 and 1.97.

■ 5. In § 171.8, add a definition for ''FW number'' in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 171.8 Definitions and abbreviations.

* * * * *

FW number means a unique identifier number assigned by the Associate Administrator to a Division 1.4G consumer firework device certified in accordance with § 173.64(b) of this subchapter.

* * * * *

PART 173—SHIPPERS—GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPMENTS AND PACKAGINGS

■ 6. The authority citation for part 173 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 5101–5128, 44701; 49 CFR 1.81, 1.96 and 1.97.

■ 7. In § 173.56, revise paragraph (h)(3) to read as follows:

§ 173.56 New explosives—definition and procedures for classification and approval.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

(3) Ammunition with inert or tracer projectile, or blank ammunition; and

* * * * *

■ 8. In § 173.59, add a description for ''Low hazard fireworks'' in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 173.59 Description of terms for explosives.

* * * * *

Low hazard fireworks. Pyrotechnic articles of certain chemical composition, design, and packaging that are not designed to leave ground level, contain no aerial components, present a Division 1.4G hazard during transportation, and comply with any limits and requirements found therein, as listed in § 173.64. Low hazard fireworks include ground and novelty devices.

* * * * *

■ 9. In § 173.63, revise paragraph (b)(1)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 173.63 Packaging exceptions.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) Cartridges, small arms, Cartridges, power device (*used to project fastening devices*), Cartridges for tools, blank, and Cases, cartridge empty with primer that may be shipped as a limited quantity are as follows:

(A) Ammunition for rifle, pistol or shotgun;

(B) Ammunition with inert or tracer projectiles, or blank ammunition;

(C) Ammunition having no tear gas, incendiary, or detonating explosive projectiles;

(D) Ammunition not exceeding 12.7 mm (50 caliber or 0.5 inch) for rifle or pistol, cartridges or 8 gauge for shotshells;

(E) Cartridges for tools, blank;

(F) Cases, cartridge, empty with primer; and

(G) Cartridges, power device (*used to project fastening devices*).

* * * * *

■ 10. Revise § 173.64 to read as follows:

§ 173.64 Exceptions for Division 1.3 and 1.4 fireworks.

(a) *Classification and approval.* Notwithstanding the requirements of § 173.56(b), Division 1.3 and 1.4 fireworks (see § 173.65 for provisions applicable to Fireworks Certification Agencies) may be classed and approved by the Associate Administrator without prior examination and offered for transportation if the following conditions are met:

(1) Fireworks must be manufactured in accordance with the applicable requirements in APA 87–1A (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter), APA 87–1B (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter), and APA 87–1C (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter).

(2) The fireworks must pass a thermal stability test conducted by a third-party laboratory or the manufacturer. The test must be performed by maintaining the device, or a representative prototype of a large device such as a display shell, at a temperature of 75°C (167 °F) for 48 consecutive hours. When fireworks contain more than one component, those components that could be in physical contact with each other in the finished firework must be placed in contact with each other during the thermal stability test.

(3) The manufacturer applies in writing to the Associate Administrator following the applicable requirements in APA 87–1A (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter), APA 87–1B (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter), and APA 87–1C (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter), and is notified in writing by the Associate Administrator that the fireworks have been classed, approved, and assigned an EX number. Each application must be complete and include all relevant background data and copies of all applicable drawings, test results, and any other pertinent information on each device for which approval is being requested. The manufacturer must sign the application and certify that the device for which approval is requested conforms to the appropriate APA standard; that the descriptions and technical information contained in the application are complete and accurate; and, with respect to APA 87–1A, that no duplicate application has been submitted to a Fireworks Certification Agency. If the application is denied, the manufacturer will be notified in writing of the reasons for the denial. The Associate Administrator may require that the fireworks be examined by an agency listed in § 173.56(b)(1).

(b) *Additional exceptions for low hazard Division 1.4 consumer fireworks.* Low hazard fireworks are pyrotechnic articles of certain chemical composition, design, and packaging such that they present a Division 1.4 explosive hazard during transportation. Low hazard ground device fireworks listed in table 1 to paragraph (b)(2)(v) of this section and meeting the specified conditions and limitations are eligible for self-classification, certification, and transport as UN0336, Fireworks, Division 1.4G. These low hazard fireworks may in some cases be alternatively classified as Division 1.4S when following the new explosives procedures in § 173.56. Low hazard fireworks are not required to go through the explosives approval requirements of § 173.56 or the DOT-approved Fireworks Certification Agency requirements of § 173.65; however, low hazard ground device fireworks must be

certified by the manufacturer with the Associate Administrator and obtain an FW number. Furthermore, low hazard novelty fireworks listed in table 2 to paragraph (b)(3)(iv) of this section meeting the specified conditions and limitations are excepted from the requirements of this subchapter as a Class 1 explosive material.

(1) *General requirements.* No person may manufacture and offer for transport a low hazard firework not compliant with requirements of this paragraph (b). No person may accept for transport a low hazard firework not certified or excepted from this subchapter as specified in this paragraph (b). If the person certifying compliance with the Associate Administrator is not a resident of the United States, the person must designate an agent for service in accordance with § 105.40 of this chapter. In addition, low hazard fireworks:

(i) Must successfully pass a thermal stability test as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section; and

(ii) May not be transported as a component part for another firework or explosive.

(2) *Requirements specific to ground firework devices.* (i) Ground devices must use chemicals in conformance with the Permitted and Restricted Chemical Table for Consumer Fireworks and Novelties list in APA 87–1A, Appendix 1.

(ii) When permitted, all reports are limited to 50 mg of composition per report.

(iii) Ground devices must be initiated by a fuse. However, a fuse is not required for the following types: flitter sparklers, wire or dipped sparklers, fountain (nitrocellulose), and snakes (glow worms).

(iv) Ground devices must be marked with an FW number issued by the Associate Administrator. If the firework is too small for the marking, the outer package of the fireworks must be marked with the FW number.

(v) Authorized ground devices, and their descriptions, specifications, and special conditions for transport are set forth as follows:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (b)(2)(v)—AUTHORIZED GROUND DEVICES AND SPECIFICATIONS

Type	Description	Specification	Special conditions
Chaser	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube, which vents out its fuse hole.	20 grams total of chemical composition, with multiple reports permitted (each report limited to 50 milligrams).	None.
Crackling Ball	Consists of a spherical ball that contains small granules of chemical composition that upon ignition produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 72 grams of composition.
Crackling Strip.	Consists of small granules of chemical composition adhered to and encased in a paper or cardboard wrapping that upon ignition produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 72 grams of composition.
Crackling Tube.	Consists of a tube that contains small granules of chemical composition that upon ignition produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 72 grams of composition.
Firecracker ...	Consists of a small paper-wrapped or cardboard tube that produces a single report.	50 milligrams of chemical composition per firecracker.	Multiple firecrackers can be fused together to form a string. There is no limit on number of firecrackers in a string.
Flasher/ Strobe.	Consists of a small paper-wrapped or cardboard tube that produces a crackling/flashing/strobe light effect.	5 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	Inner packaging cannot exceed 60 grams of composition.
Flitter Sparkler.	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube attached to a stick or wire Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame, and/or a crackling effect.	25 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted. Formulations containing chlorates are limited to 4 grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulation being chlorates.	None.
Fountain (Cone).	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition produces a shower consisting of any combination of colored sparks, color flame, crackle, smoke, whistle, or micro star effects.	50 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.
Fountain (Cylindrical).	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition produces a shower consisting of any combination of colored sparks, color flame, crackle, smoke, whistle, or micro star effects.	100 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.
Fountain (Nitrocellulose).	Consists of a cone or tube device that produces a shower of small sparks, color, and flame as its primary effect using nitrocellulose as the major chemical component.	15 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.
Ground Spinner.	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition emits a shower of sparks that vent out of an orifice causing the device to spin rapidly on the ground.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with reports permitted (each report limited to 50 milligrams).	Multiple ground spinners can be fused together to form a string. Strings are limited to 20 grams of total composition.
Illuminating Torch.	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition, emits a colored flame with or without crackles or sparks.	100 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted.	None.

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (b)(2)(v)—AUTHORIZED GROUND DEVICES AND SPECIFICATIONS—Continued

Type	Description	Specification	Special conditions
Smoke	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition emits smoke as the primary effect.	100 total grams of chemical composition. All mixtures containing a chlorate must contain an equal amount or greater amount of a carbonate or bicarbonate (*e.g.,* calcium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate).	Multiple smoke devices can be fused together to form a string. Strings are limited to 100 grams of total composition.
Snake	Consists of pressed pellet of pyrotechnic composition that upon ignition produce a snake-like ash that expands in length as the composition is consumed.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports. Only formulations of nitrated asphalt, asphaltum, bitumen, pitch, and/or tar with an oxidizer (with or without a binder) are permitted.	None.
Specialty Device.	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube(s), *e.g.,* in the shape of an animal or a small vehicle, that produces multiple effects.	20 total grams of chemical composition, with reports permitted (each report limited to 50 milligrams). No tube can contain more than 2 grams of composition; tubes cannot contain aerial components or internal shells.	None.
Wheel	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube(s) placed on the ground or attached to a post, by means of a nail, spike or string. Upon ignition the wheel rotates, producing a shower of sparks, color, crackling, flame, or whistle effects.	200 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports. No tube can contain more than 60 total grams of composition, which includes a 20 gram propellant limit per tube. Tubes cannot contain aerial components. Handles are not permitted.	None.
Wire Sparkler or Dipped Stick.	Consists of a metal wire or wood dowel coated with a chemical composition. Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame, and/or a crackling effect.	100 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted. Formulations containing chlorates are limited to 4 grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulations being chlorates.	Composition weight per inner packaging cannot exceed 120 grams.

(3) *Requirements specific to novelty firework devices.* Except for transportation by air, novelty fireworks conforming to the requirements of this paragraph (b)(3) are not subject to the requirements of this subchapter. For air transportation, novelty devices must be transported as required by this subchapter for ''UN3178, Flammable solid, inorganic, n.o.s. (Novelties), 4.1, PG II.''

(i) Novelty devices must use chemicals in conformance with the Permitted and Restricted Chemical Table for Consumer Fireworks and Novelties in APA 87–1A, Appendix 1 (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter).

(ii) Inner packagings of novelty devices must be packaged in strong outer packagings. The packages must conform to the requirements of § 173.24. The maximum gross weight of a completed package may not exceed 30 kg (66 pounds).

(iii) Each outer package, and overpack if used, containing novelty devices must be plainly marked ''NOVELTIES, IN CONFORMANCE WITH § 173.64, NOT REGULATED, EXCEPT WHEN TRANSPORTED BY AIR''.

(iv) Authorized novelty devices, and their descriptions, specifications, and special conditions for transport are set forth as follows:

TABLE 2 TO PARAGRAPH (b)(3)(iv)—AUTHORIZED NOVELTY DEVICES AND SPECIFICATIONS

Type	Description	Specification	Special conditions
Booby Trap/Pull Apart.	Is a device that is actuated by means of friction. Pulling a string or strings apart activate the device producing a noise effect.	0.016 total grams of chemical composition, which is limited to barium, potassium, and/or sodium chlorate with red phosphorus.	Inner packages must not contain more than 12 devices.
Novelty Flitter Sparkler.	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube attached to a stick or wire. Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame, and/or a crackling effect.	5 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted. Formulations containing chlorates are limited to 4 grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulation being chlorates.	
Party Poppers ...	Is a device that is actuated by means of friction. Pulling a string or trigger activates the device producing a noise effect and releasing paper streamers or confetti. Common examples resemble champagne bottles and toy pistols.	0.016 total grams of chemical composition, which is limited to barium, potassium, and/or sodium chlorate with red phosphorus.	Inner packages must not contain more than 72 devices.
Novelty Snakes and Glow-Worms.	Consists of pressed pellet of pyrotechnic composition that upon ignition, produce a snake-like ash that expands in length as the composition is consumed.	2 total grams of chemical composition Only formulations of nitrated asphalt, asphaltum, bitumen, pitch, and/or tar with an oxidizer (with or without a binder) are permitted.	Inner packaging must not contain more than 25 devices.

TABLE 2 TO PARAGRAPH (b)(3)(iv)—AUTHORIZED NOVELTY DEVICES AND SPECIFICATIONS—Continued

Type	Description	Specification	Special conditions
Snappers	Consists of small, paper-wrapped items. When dropped, the device activates, producing a noise effect.	0.001 total grams of silver fulminate coated on small bits of sand or gravel.	Inner packages must not contain more than 50 devices with sawdust or other impact absorbing materials.
Novelty Wire Sparkler or Novelty Dipped Stick.	Consists of a metal wire or wood dowel coated with a chemical composition. Upon ignition, the device produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame, and/or a crackling effect.	25 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted. Formulations containing perchlorates are limited to 5 grams. Formulations containing chlorates are limited to 4 grams with no more than 15 percent of the formulations being chlorates.	Inner packages must not contain more than 8 devices.
Novelty Smoke Device.	Consists of a paper or cardboard tube that upon ignition, emits smoke as the only effect.	5 total grams of chemical composition, with no reports permitted. All mixtures containing a chlorate must contain an equal amount or greater amount of a carbonate or bicarbonate (*e.g.,* calcium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate).	Inner packages must not contain more than 72 devices.

(4) *Recordkeeping requirements.* The manufacturer of low hazard ground devices must maintain a record demonstrating compliance with this section. Each record must clearly provide the FW number assigned to the device certified. The record may contain information such as: category of device, drawing(s), chemical composition list, gram quantities, and, if applicable, U.S. agent of service information. The record must be accessible at or through the principal place of business for five years after the device is manufactured and must be made available, upon request, to an authorized official of a Federal, State, or local government agency at a reasonable time and location, not to exceed five (5) business days.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 28, 2026 under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Paul J. Roberti,

Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026–10962 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 231127–0277; RTID 0648–XF681]

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; 2026 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for Snowy Grouper in the South Atlantic

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS implements an accountability measure (AM) and closure for the recreational harvest of snowy grouper in South Atlantic Federal waters. NMFS reduces the length of the snowy grouper 2026 recreational fishing season to prevent landings from exceeding the recreational annual catch limit (ACL) in 2026 as they did in 2025. Accordingly, NMFS announces the adjusted closure date for the snowy grouper 2026 recreational fishing season in South Atlantic Federal waters to protect the snowy grouper resource.

DATES: The closure is effective at 12:01 a.m., local time, June 7, 2026, until 12:01 a.m., local time, on January 1, 2027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karla Gore, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 727–824–5305, *karla.gore@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The snapper-grouper fishery of the South Atlantic includes snowy grouper and is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NMFS, was approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and is implemented by NMFS through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

For snowy grouper, the recreational ACL is 1,713 fish (50 CFR 622.193(b)(2)(i)). The snowy grouper recreational AM states that if recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, NMFS will reduce the length of the recreational fishing season to prevent recreational landings from exceeding the recreational ACL (50 CFR 622.193(b)(2)(ii)). Preliminary 2025 landings information shows that snowy grouper recreational landings were 1,957 fish, exceeding the recreational ACL by 244 fish. Therefore, consistent with the recreational AM, NMFS is reducing the length of the 2026 recreational fishing season to prevent the recreational ACL from being exceeded.

The fishing year for snowy grouper is from January 1 through December 31, annually (50 CFR 622.7). However, the recreational sector for snowy grouper is closed annually from January 1 through April 30, and from July 1 through December 31 (50 CFR 622.183(b)(8)). Data from the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center have informed NMFS' 2026 season length projection that recreational landings will reach the recreational ACL by June 7, 2026. Therefore, NMFS announces that the snowy grouper recreational sector in South Atlantic Federal waters will close at 12:01 a.m., local time, June 7, 2026, until 12:01 a.m., local time, on January 1, 2027. During the recreational closure, the bag and possession limits for snowy grouper in or from South Atlantic Federal waters are zero. The next recreational fishing season for snowy grouper begins on May 1, 2027.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 622.193(c)(2)(ii), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and is exempt

from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures are unnecessary because the rule that established the recreational AM for snowy grouper has already been subject to public notice and comment, and all that remains is to notify the public of the end date of the recreational season. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action is contrary to the public interest because of the need to protect the South Atlantic snowy grouper resource. Additionally, announcing the closure date as soon as possible allows recreational sector participants and businesses to better plan their activities to harvest snowy grouper.

For the reasons just stated, there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 29, 2026.

David R. Blankinship,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–11017 Filed 5–29–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 031125294–4091–02; RTID 0648–XF792]

Fisheries Off West Coast States; the Highly Migratory Species Fishery; Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area Closure

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting fishing with large-mesh drift gillnet (DGN) gear (≥14 inches mesh) off the coast of southern California east of 120° W meridian from June 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026. This prohibition is based on the fact that the NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has indicated that the sea surface temperature off the coast of southern California for March and April is warmer than normal and there is an 82 percent probability that El Niño conditions may occur between May-July. This action protects Endangered Species Act-listed loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*), specifically the endangered North Pacific Ocean Distinct Population Segment.

DATES: Effective 12:01 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), June 1, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. PDT, August 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Fanning, West Coast Region (WCR), NMFS, (562) 980–4198, *chris.fanning@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DGN fishery is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species and regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subpart K and occurs off the coast of California. NMFS regulations provide that, ''No person may fish with, set, or haul back drift gillnet gear in U.S. waters of the Pacific Ocean east of the 120° W meridian from June 1 through August 31 during a forecasted, or occurring, El Niño event off the coast of southern California'' (50 CFR 660.713(c)(2)). This area, which falls within the Southern California Bight (SCB), is referred to in the regulations as the ''Pacific loggerhead conservation area.''

Under 50 CFR 660.713(c)(2)(ii), the Assistant Administrator (AA) is to rely on information developed by NOAA offices (CPC and the West Coast Office of the Coast Watch program). The AA is to use monthly sea surface temperature (SST) charts to determine whether there are warmer-than-normal SSTs off southern California ''during the months prior to the closure months for years in which an El Niño event has been declared'' by the CPC. Specifically, the AA is to use SST data from the third and second months prior to the month of closure.

NMFS published these regulations to protect loggerhead sea turtles, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The regulations addressed a reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) included in NMFS' 2000 biological opinion on issuance of an incidental take permit under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The biological opinion concluded that bycatch in the DGN fishery was likely to jeopardize the continued existence of loggerhead sea turtles and, as an RPA, recommended the fishery be closed during the summer months when El Niño conditions are present to avoid the likelihood of jeopardy. The Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area regulations were implemented in 2003 to address this RPA, and were amended in 2007, to protect Pacific loggerhead turtles (72 FR 31756, June 8, 2007).

In May 2026, NMFS staff reviewed the SST anomalies in the SCB during March and April of 2026, relying on SST maps available through NOAA's Coast Watch program (for details see *http://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/index.html*). These maps indicated that SSTs were above normal in the SCB. As such, NMFS concludes that a closure off southern California is warranted based on SSTs that are warmer than normal during the third and second months prior to the month of the closure, consistent with regulations at 50 CFR 660.713(c)(2)(ii).

If SSTs return to normal or below normal during a closure period, regulations at 50 CFR 660.713(c)(2)(iii) state that the AA may re-open the fishery after publishing a **Federal Register** notice. The CPS report on May 14, 2026, indicates an 'El Niño Watch' status with El Niño likely to emerge soon (82 percent chance in May-July 2026) and continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2026–27 (96 percent chance in December 2026–February 2027).

Classification

This action is required by regulations at 50 CFR 660.713 and is exempt from Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866.

NMFS finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) for the time-area closure of the DGN fishery. Notice and comment procedures are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The most recent CPC information occurred on May 14, 2026, and regulations require that the closure period begin on June 1; therefore, there is insufficient time for notice and comment procedures. For the same reasons, NMFS also finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the general requirement for a 30-day delay in effectiveness for this action. This measure is based upon the best available information and is necessary for the conservation of loggerhead sea turtles. The closure period anticipated by the regulation ends, at the latest, on August 31, 2026. A delay in effectiveness may allow the fishery to interact with and injure or kill loggerhead sea turtles that may occur within the SCB during the time period in which the regulation was intended to protect loggerheads.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 29, 2026.

David R. Blankinship,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–11021 Filed 5–29–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

Proposed Rules

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 105
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

26 CFR Part 300

[REG–103193–26]

RIN 1545–BS10

Estate Tax Closing Letter User Fee Update

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This document contains proposed regulations amending the current regulations to increase the amount of the user fee imposed on authorized persons requesting the issuance of an estate tax closing letter. The Independent Offices Appropriations Act of 1952 authorizes charging user fees in appropriate circumstances. The proposed regulations would affect persons who request an estate tax closing letter.

DATES: Written or electronic comments and requests for a public hearing must be received by July 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Commenters are strongly encouraged to submit public comments electronically. Submit electronic submissions via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *https://www.regulations.gov* (indicate IRS and REG–103193–26) by following the online instructions for submitting comments. Requests for a public hearing must be submitted as prescribed in the ''Comments and Request for Public Hearing'' section. Once submitted to the Federal eRulemaking Portal, comments cannot be edited or withdrawn. The Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department) and the IRS will publish for public availability any comments submitted to the IRS's public docket. Send paper submissions to: CC:PA:01:PR (REG–103193–26), Room 5503, Internal Revenue Service, P.O. Box 7604, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Concerning the proposed regulations, Juli Ro Kim at (202) 317–6859; concerning cost methodology, CFO Cost and User Fees at (202) 317–6400; concerning submissions of comments or requests for a public hearing, the Publications and Regulations Section at (202) 317–6901 (not toll-free numbers) or by email at *publichearings@irs.gov* (preferred).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

This notice of proposed rulemaking proposes amendments to 26 CFR part 300 regarding user fees for authorized persons who request the issuance of an estate tax closing letter (also referred to as the IRS Letter 627).

The Independent Offices Appropriations Act of 1952 (IOAA) (31 U.S.C. 9701) authorizes each agency to prescribe regulations that establish user fees for services provided by the agency. The IOAA provides that regulations implementing user fees are subject to policies prescribed by the President; these policies are set forth in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–25, 58 FR 38142 (July 15, 1993) (OMB Circular A–25).

The IOAA states that the services provided by an agency should be self-sustaining to the extent possible. Under OMB Circular A–25, agencies that provide services that confer special benefits on identifiable recipients beyond those accruing to the general public must identify those services, determine whether user fees should be assessed for those services, and, if so, establish user fees that recover the full cost of providing those services, unless an exception to the full cost requirement is granted. As required by the IOAA and OMB Circular A–25, agencies are to review user fees biennially and update them as necessary to reflect changes in the cost of providing the underlying services.

Background and Explanation of Provisions

A. Estate Tax Closing Letter User Fee

On September 28, 2021, the Treasury Department and the IRS published final regulations (TD 9957) in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 53539) establishing a $67 user fee to apply to requests for the issuance of an estate tax closing letter, based on a 2019 Cost Model. Based on a 2023 Cost Model, the Treasury Department and the IRS published in the **Federal Register** an interim final rule (TD 10031, 90 FR 21410) on May 20, 2025, followed by final regulations adopting the interim final rule (TD 10038, 90 FR 55041) on December 1, 2025, which established the current $56 user fee to apply to requests for the issuance of an estate tax closing letter.

As explained in the *Background* section of the preamble of TD 9957, the issuance of an estate tax closing letter constitutes the provision of a service and confers special benefits to authorized persons requesting such letters beyond those accruing to the general public. Therefore, the IRS is authorized, pursuant to the IOAA and OMB Circular A–25, to charge a user fee for the issuance of an estate tax closing letter that reflects the full cost of providing this service.

In 2025, the IRS conducted a biennial review of the estate tax closing letter user fee and issued a new Cost Model, which determined that the full cost of issuing estate tax closing letters to authorized persons is $76. The increase is due to a combination of operational factors.

B. Calculation of User Fees Generally

The IRS follows generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in calculating the full cost of providing services. The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) is the body that establishes GAAP that apply for Federal reporting entities such as the IRS. FASAB publishes the FASAB Handbook of Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements, as amended, available at *https://fasab.gov/accounting-standards/*. The FASAB Handbook includes the Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards 4: Managerial Cost Accounting Standards and Concepts (SFFAS No. 4) for the Federal government. SFFAS No. 4 establishes internal costing standards under GAAP to accurately measure and manage the full cost of Federal programs. The methodology described below is in accordance with SFFAS No. 4.

1. Cost Center Allocation

The IRS determines the cost of its services and the activities involved in producing them through a cost accounting system that tracks costs to organizational units. The lowest

organizational unit in the IRS's cost accounting system is a cost center. Cost centers usually are separate offices that are distinguished by subject-matter area of responsibility or geographic region. All costs of operating a cost center are recorded in the IRS's cost accounting system and are allocated to that cost center. These costs include the direct costs for the cost center's activities and all indirect costs, including overhead, associated with that cost center. Each cost is recorded in only one cost center.

2. Cost Estimation of Direct Labor and Benefits

Not all cost centers are fully devoted to only one service for which the IRS charges a user fee. When cost centers include multiple services, the IRS measures the time required to accomplish activities associated with each service to estimate the average time spent on the service in the related cost center. The average time devoted is multiplied by the relevant organizational unit's average labor and benefits cost per unit of time to determine the direct labor and benefits cost incurred to provide the service. To determine the full cost, the IRS then adds an appropriate overhead charge.

3. Calculating Overhead

Overhead is an indirect cost of operating an organization that cannot be immediately associated with an activity that the organization performs. Overhead includes costs of resources that are jointly or commonly consumed by one or more organizational unit's activities but are not specifically identifiable to a single activity, such as the following:

- General management and administration
- Rent, security, utilities and maintenance
- Procurement and contracting
- Financial management and accounting
- Information technology
- Research, analytical, and statistical
- Human resources and personnel

To calculate the overhead allocable to a service, the IRS multiplies the current overhead rate by the direct labor and benefits costs of the service. The overhead rate is the ratio of the IRS's indirect labor, benefits, and non-labor costs of business divisions that do not interact with taxpayers to the direct labor and benefits costs of business divisions that interact with taxpayers. The IRS calculates the overhead rate annually based on cost elements underlying the Statement of Net Cost included in the IRS Annual Financial Statements, which are audited by the Government Accountability Office.

For this estate tax closing letter user fee review, the fiscal year (FY) 2025 overhead rate, based on FY 2024 costs, of 62.92 percent was used.

C. Full Cost Determination for the Estate Tax Closing Letter User Fee

The IRS followed the guidance provided by the OMB Circular A–25 guidance to compute the full cost of issuing estate tax closing letters to authorized persons. OMB Circular A–25 explains that the full cost includes all indirect and direct costs to any part of the Federal Government including, but not limited to, direct and indirect personnel costs, physical overhead, rents, utilities, travel, and management costs.

1. Request Processing Costs

Requests for estate tax closing letters are processed by employees at grades 5, 8, and 11 of the general schedule (GS–5, GS–8, and GS–11). Approximately 0.65 staff hours are required to review the return, create the estate tax closing letters, and prepare the letters for mailing. The IRS processed an average of 8,053 requests per year for estate tax closing letters in FY 2023 and FY 2024, requiring 5,234 staff hours.

Total hours allocated to the cost also must include indirect hours for campus employees, which are calculated by multiplying the direct hours by the applicable 60 percent indirect employee rate. Using this information, IRS determined that staff hours for processing requests for estate tax closing letters are 8,374 annually.

Direct Staff Hours		5,234
Indirect Hours (60%)	+	3,140
Total Hours		8,374

To determine the labor and benefits costs, the IRS divided the 8,374 total hours by 2,080 (the total annual hours worked by a full-time employee (FTE)) to convert the hours to a 4.03 FTE equivalent. The processing of requests for estate tax closing letters is performed at the GS–5 level (36.85 percent), but also by employees at the GS–8 level (35.82 percent) and GS–11 level (27.33 percent). The average salary and benefit cost for each of those levels was multiplied by that grade's percentage of processing time to arrive at a $92,812 total cost per FTE. Multiplying the cost per FTE by the 4.03 FTE equivalent resulted in a total labor and benefits cost of $374,032, as follows:

Total Cost Per FTE		$92,812
Total FTE	×	4.03
Processing Labor & Benefits		374,032

2. Quality Assurance Review Costs

A sampling of issued estate tax closing letters are reviewed to verify (1) the estate tax closing letter was authorized, (2) the information included in the estate tax closing letter was accurate, and (3) the address was correct.

During FY 2023 and FY 2024, 48 estates were issued estate tax closing letters (an annual average of 24 estates) that were reviewed for quality assurance purposes. Generally, three letters are reviewed per estate and quality assurance professionals spend 0.5 hours reviewing one estate tax closing letter, totaling 36 direct staff hours. The direct staff hours were multiplied by the 60 percent indirect employee rate for campus employees, resulting in a combined total of 58 annual staff hours allocated for quality assurance (QA) reviews, as follows:

Direct Staff Hours		36
Indirect Hours (60%)	+	22
Total Hours		58

Outgoing estate tax closing letters are reviewed by quality assurance professionals at the following Internal Revenue (IR) paybands of the IRS Payband System: IR–10 (25 percent) and IR–06 (75 percent). Dividing the total hours by 2,080 (the total annual hours for each FTE) resulted in 0.03 FTEs. The average salary and benefits for both IR paybands conducting QA reviews was multiplied by that IR payband's percentage of processing time to arrive at the $3,818 total cost per FTE. The total cost per FTE was then multiplied by the total FTE to determine the labor and benefits cost for QA reviews, as follows:

Total Cost per FTE		$127,256
Total FTE	×	0.03
Quality Assurance Labor & Benefits		3,818

3. Full Cost per Request Calculation

The IRS applied the 62.92 percent overhead rate to the total labor and benefits cost to calculate the full cost of the estate tax closing letter program.

Processing Labor & Benefits		$374,032
Quality Assurance Labor & Benefits	+	3,818
Total Labor and Benefits		377,850
Overhead (62.92%)	+	237,743
Full Cost		615,593

The $76 cost per request was determined by dividing the full cost by the average annual volume of processed requests, as follows:

Full Cost	$615,593

Estimated Annual Request Volume	÷	8,053
Cost per Request		76

Proposed Applicability Date

These regulations are proposed to apply to requests for an estate tax closing letter received by the IRS on or after the date that is 30 days after the date these regulations are published as final regulations in the **Federal Register**.

Special Analyses

I. Regulatory Planning and Review

The OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Analysis has determined that this regulation is not significant and is not subject to review under section 6(b) of Executive Order 12866.

II. Regulatory Flexibility Act

Pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. chapter 6), it is hereby certified that these proposed regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The proposed regulations, which would increase the amount of a fee to obtain a particular service, would affect decedents' estates, which generally are not ''small entities'' as defined under 5 U.S.C. 601(6). Thus, these proposed regulations would have no economic impact on small entities. Accordingly, the Secretary certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

III. Submission to Small Business Administration

Pursuant to section 7805(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, this notice of proposed rulemaking has been submitted to the Chief Counsel of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration for comment on its impact on small business.

IV. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires that agencies assess anticipated costs and benefits and take certain other actions before issuing a final rule that includes any Federal mandate that may result in expenditures in any one year by a State, local, or Tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $100 million in 1995 dollars, updated annually for inflation. This rule does not include any Federal mandate that may result in expenditures by State, local, or Tribal governments, or by the private sector in excess of that threshold.

V. Executive Order 13132: Federalism

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism) prohibits an agency from publishing any rule that has federalism implications if the rule either imposes substantial, direct compliance costs on State and local governments, and is not required by statute, or preempts State law, unless the agency meets the consultation and funding requirements of section 6 of the Executive order. These proposed regulations do not have federalism implications and do not impose substantial direct compliance costs on State and local governments or preempt State law within the meaning of the Executive order.

Comments and Request for Public Hearing

Before these proposed regulations are adopted as final regulations, consideration will be given to comments that are submitted timely to the Treasury Department and the IRS as prescribed in this preamble under the **ADDRESSES** heading. The Treasury Department and IRS request comments on all aspects of the proposed regulations. Any electronic and paper comments submitted will be made available at *https://www.regulations.gov* or upon request. Once submitted to the Federal eRulemaking Portal, comments cannot be edited or withdrawn.

A public hearing will be scheduled if requested in writing by any person that timely submits written or electronic comments. If a public hearing is scheduled, notice of the date, time, and place for the public hearing will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Drafting Information

The principal author of these proposed regulations is Juli Ro Kim of the Office of the Associate Chief Counsel (Passthroughs, Trusts, and Estates). However, other personnel from the Treasury Department and the IRS participated in their development.

List of Subjects in 26 CFR Part 300

Estate taxes, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Proposed Amendments to the Regulations

Accordingly, the Treasury Department and the IRS propose to amend 26 CFR part 300 as follows:

PART 300—USER FEES

■ **Paragraph 1.** The authority citation for part 300 continues to read, in part, as follows:

Authority: 31 U.S.C. 9701.

■ **Par. 2.** Section 300.12 is amended by revising paragraphs (b) and (d) to read as follows:

§ 300.12 Fee for estate tax closing letter.

* * * * *

(b) *Fee.* The fee for issuing an estate tax closing letter is $76.

* * * * *

(d) *Applicability date.* This section applies to requests received by the IRS on or after [the date 30 days after the date of publication of final regulations in the **Federal Register**].

Frank J. Bisignano,

Chief Executive Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–10963 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4831–GV–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG–2026–0276]

RIN 1625–AA00

Safety Zones; Recurring Events in Captain of the Port Duluth Zone

AGENCY: Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is proposing to revise existing regulations for recurring safety zones in the Captain of the Port Duluth Zone. The proposed changes would allow for limited geographic flexibility in the location of recurring safety zones for certain annual marine events. This proposed rulemaking is intended to permit the Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Duluth to provide notification of enforcement of recurring safety zones in the vicinity of published coordinates, rather than requiring enforcement at a fixed point. The safety zones are needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards associated with these events. We invite your comments on this proposed rulemaking.

DATES: Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before July 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: To submit comments and view available documents, go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and search for USCG–2026–0276.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this proposed rule, contact LT Zachary Fedak, Marine Safety Unit Duluth, U.S. Coast Guard;

telephone 218–522–0708, email *Zachary.A.Fedak@uscg.mil.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
COTP Captain of the Port
DHS Department of Homeland Security
FR Federal Register
NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking
§ Section
U.S.C. United States Code

II. Background and Authority

Each year, the Coast Guard establishes recurring safety zones for annual marine events in the Captain of the Port Duluth Zone to protect participants, spectators, vessels, and the marine environment from hazards such as accidental discharge of fireworks, dangerous projectiles, and falling hot embers or other debris. Historically, these safety zones have been defined by fixed geographic coordinates in Table 1 to § 165.943. However, event organizers sometimes need to shift the location of an event slightly due to operational, environmental, or logistical factors. The current regulation does not allow for such flexibility, requiring a separate rulemaking for any change in coordinates. Therefore, the COTP is proposing this rule under the authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034, which is needed to allow for limited geographic flexibility in the enforcement of safety zones for recurring events, thereby improving efficiency and safety. The regulatory text we are proposing appears at the end of this document.

III. Discussion of the Rule

This proposed rule would revise the existing regulatory text and associated table establishing annually recurring safety zones within the Captain of the Port (COTP) Duluth Zone, as listed in 33 CFR 165.943. The proposed changes would update event listings and structure the rule to accommodate geographic flexibility in subsequent Notifications of Enforcement. These revisions are intended to improve the clarity, consistency, and timeliness of public notification.

The general durations of the safety zones remain unchanged, and the geographic locations have been minimally altered to note that they are ''approximate.'' Each safety zone would continue to be enforced only during specific periods, which will be announced in advance through publication of a Notification of Enforcement in the **Federal Register** and via Broadcast Notices to Mariners over VHF–FM marine channel 16. These measures ensure continued protection of persons, vessels, and the navigable waters of the western Great Lakes during recurring safety zone enforcement periods.

During periods of enforcement, no vessel or person would be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or their designated representative. The regulatory text we are proposing appears at the end of this document.

IV. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this proposed rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders.

A. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term ''small entities'' comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. Section 605 of the RFA allows an agency to certify a rule, in lieu of preparing an analysis, if the rulemaking is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities for the following reasons.

Vessel traffic is often able to safely transit around these regulated areas. This regulation will only impact small areas for a few hours each. The enforcement periods generally are during a time when vessel traffic is normally low. In addition, the Coast Guard will issue Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF FM marine channel 16, which will allow small entities to adjust their transit plans, and the rule allows vessels to request permission to enter a regulated area from the COTP.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this proposed rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this proposed rule would economically affect it.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), if this proposed rule will affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions, contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Small businesses may send comments to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards by calling 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247).

B. Collection of Information

This proposed rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

C. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in that Order.

Also, this proposed rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

As required by The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538), the Coast Guard certifies that this proposed rule will not result in an annual expenditure of $100,000,000 or more (adjusted for inflation) by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector.

E. Environment

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023–01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.

This proposed rule involves safety zones. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01,

Rev. 1. A preliminary Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket.

V. Public Participation and Request for Comments

We view public participation as essential to effective rulemaking and will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comment can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

Submitting comments. We encourage you to submit comments at *https://www.regulations.gov.* To do so, go to *https://www.regulations.gov,* type USCG–2026–0276 in the search box and click ''Search.'' Next, look for this document in the Search Results column, and click on it. Then click on the Comment option. If you cannot submit your material by using *https://www.regulations.gov,* call or email the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this proposed rule for alternate instructions.

Viewing material in the docket. To view available documents, find the docket as described in the previous paragraph, and then select ''Supporting & Related Material'' in the Document Type column. We will post public comments in our online docket. Additional information is on the *https://www.regulations.gov* Frequently Asked Questions web page.

Personal information. We accept anonymous comments. Comments we post to *https://www.regulations.gov* will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions to the docket in response to this document, see DHS's eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020).

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard is proposing to amend 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; DHS Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.4.

■ 2. Revise § 165.943 to read as follows:

§ 165.943 Safety Zones; Recurring Events in Captain of the Port Duluth Zone.

(a) *Regulations.* (1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry into, transiting, or anchoring within these safety zones are prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port (COTP) Duluth or his or her designated on-scene representative.

(2) These safety zones are closed to all vessel traffic, except as may be permitted by the COTP Duluth or his or her designated on-scene representative.

(3) The ''on-scene representative'' of the COTP Duluth is any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant or petty officer who has been designated by the COTP Duluth to act on his or her behalf.

(4) Vessel operators desiring to enter or operate within the safety zone must contact the COTP Duluth or his or her on-scene representative to obtain permission to do so. The COTP Duluth or his or her on-scene representative may be contacted via VHF Channel 16. Vessel operators given permission to enter or operate in the safety zone must comply with all directions given to them by the COTP Duluth, or his or her on-scene representative.

(5) The enforcement dates, times, and coordinates or location for each of the safety zones listed in Table 1 are subject to limited change, but the duration of enforcement would remain the same or nearly the same as stated in Table 1. In the event of a change, the COTP Duluth will provide notice to the public by publishing a Notification of Enforcement in the **Federal Register,** as well as issuing a Broadcast Notice to Mariners.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section:

(1) *Designated representative* means any Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated by or assisting the COTP Duluth in the enforcement of each safety zone.

(2) *Public vessel* means a vessel that is owned, chartered, or operated by the United States, or by a State or political subdivision thereof.

(3) *Rain date* refers to an alternate date and/or time in which the safety zone would be enforced in the event of inclement weather.

(c) *Suspension of enforcement.* The COTP Duluth may suspend enforcement of any of these zones earlier than listed in this section. Should the COTP Duluth suspend any of these zones earlier than the listed duration in this section, he or she may make the public aware of this suspension by Broadcast Notice to Mariners and/or on-scene notice by his or her designated representative.

(d) *Exemption.* Public vessels, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, are exempt from the requirements in this section.

(e) *Waiver.* For any vessel, the COTP Duluth or his or her designated representative may waive any of the requirements of this section upon finding that operational conditions or other circumstances are such that application of this section is unnecessary or impractical for the purposes of safety or security.

(f) *Notification.* The enforcement dates and times, as well as the listed coordinates or location for each of the listed safety zones are subject to limited change. Advance notice to the local maritime community will be made well in advance of the events through Notification(s) of Enforcement in the **Federal Register**, listing exact times and dates of the enforcement periods, as well as coordinates or location if changed. A Broadcast Notice to Mariners will also be issued.

TABLE 1 TO § 165.943

[Datum NAD 1983]

Event	Location [1]	Enforcement date and time
(a) January Safety Zones		
[Reserved].		
(b) February Safety Zones		

TABLE 1 TO § 165.943—Continued

[Datum NAD 1983]

Event	Location [1]	Enforcement date and time
[Reserved].		
(c) March Safety Zones		
[Reserved].		
(d) April Safety Zones		
[Reserved].		
(e) May Safety Zones		
[Reserved].		
(f) June Safety Zones		
(1) Bridgefest Regatta Fireworks Display.	All waters of the Keweenaw Waterway in Hancock, MI within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 47°07′22″ N, 088°35′28″ W.	Mid-June.
(g) July Safety Zones		
(1) Ashland 4th of July Fireworks Display.	All waters of Chequamegon Bay in Ashland, WI within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 46°35′50″ N, 090°52′59″ W.	On or around July 4th.
(2) City of Bayfield 4th of July Fireworks Display.	All waters of the Lake Superior North Channel in Bayfield, WI within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 46°48′40″ N, 090°48′32″ W.	On or around July 4th.
(3) Cornucopia 4th of July Fireworks Display.	All waters of Siskiwit Bay in Cornucopia, WI within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 46°51′35″ N, 091°06′15″ W.	On or around July 4th.
(4) Duluth 4th Fest Fireworks Display.	All waters of the Duluth Harbor Basin, Northern Section in Duluth, MN within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 46°46′14″ N, 092°06′16″ W.	On or around July 4th.
(5) LaPointe 4th of July Fireworks Display.	All waters of Lake Superior in LaPointe, WI within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 46°46′40″ N, 090°47′22″ W.	On or around July 4th.
(6) Two Harbors 4th of July Fireworks Display.	All waters of Agate Bay in Two Harbors, MN within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 47°00′54″ N, 091°40′04″ W.	On or around July 4th.
(7) Superior 4th of July Fireworks Display.	All waters of Superior Bay in Superior, WI within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 46°43′28″N, 092°03′38″ W.	On or around July 4th.
(h) August Safety Zones		
(1) Point to LaPointe Swim ..	All waters of the Lake Superior North Channel between Bayfield and LaPointe, WI within an imaginary line created by the following approximate coordinates: 46°48′50″ N, 090°48′44″ W, moving southeast to 46°46′44″ N, 090°47′33″ W, then moving northeast to 46°46′52″ N, 090°47′17″ W, then moving northwest to 46°49′03″ N, 090°48′25″ W, and finally returning to the starting position.	Early August.
(2) Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival Fireworks Display.	All waters of Superior Bay in Superior, WI within the arc of a circle with a radius of no more than 1,120 feet from the launch site at approximate position 46°43′28″ N, 092°03′47″ W.	Late August.
(3) Superior Man Triathlon ...	All waters of the Duluth Harbor Basin, Northern Section in Duluth, MN within an imaginary line created by the following approximate coordinates: 46°46′36″ N, 092°06′06″ W, moving southeast to 46°46′32″ N, 092°06′01″ W, then moving northeast to 46°46′45″ N, 092°05′45″ W, then moving northwest to 46°46′49″ N, 092°05′49″ W, and finally returning to the starting position.	Late August.
(i) September Safety Zones		
[Reserved].		
(j) October Safety Zones		
[Reserved].		
(k) November Safety Zones		

TABLE 1 TO § 165.943—Continued

[Datum NAD 1983]

Event	Location [1]	Enforcement date and time
[Reserved].		
(l) December Safety Zones		
[Reserved].		

[1] Any variation in location will be published in the Notification(s) of Enforcement released in advance of these events.

John P. Botti,

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Duluth.

[FR Doc. 2026–10976 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Ballot Mail for Federal Elections

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is proposing to amend the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service,* Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), regarding the transmission of mail-in or absentee ballots for federal elections pursuant to its rulemaking authority.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver written comments to Director, Product Classification, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446, Washington, DC 20260–5015. Email comments, containing the name and address of the commenter, may be sent to: *PCFederalRegister@usps.gov,* with a subject line of ''Ballot Mail.'' Faxed comments will not be accepted.

You may inspect and photocopy all written comments, by appointment only, at USPS® Headquarters Library, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, 11th Floor North, Washington, DC 20260. These records are available for review Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. by calling 202–268–2906.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Kennedy, (202) 268–6592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All submitted comments and attachments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose any material in your comments that you consider to be confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

The Postal Service is proposing to amend the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service,* Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) regarding the transmission of mail-in or absentee ballots for federal elections through the mail, pursuant to its authority under 39 U.S.C. 401 and 404, and consistent with Section 3 of Executive Order 14399, Ensuring Citizenship Verification and Integrity in Federal Elections.

Background

On March 31, 2026, the President issued Executive Order 14399, *Ensuring Citizenship Verification and Integrity in Federal Elections,* 91 FR 17125 (2026) (''Order''). The Executive Order discusses the importance of additional measures concerning the use of the mails to vote in federal elections, in order to facilitate enforcement of federal law, reduce the risk of fraud, and help protect the integrity of federal elections. Following the issuance of the Order, the Postal Service submitted this proposed rule to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for interagency review. Subsequent to that review process, the Postal Service issues this proposed rule regarding the preparation of ballot mail for federal elections to facilitate the enforcement of federal law. The proposed rule would also implement best practices for Postal Service operations regarding ballot mail.

Legal Authority and Rationale

The Postal Service is initiating this rulemaking pursuant to its authority to regulate the mails, including under 39 U.S.C. 401 and 404. Section 401 authorizes the Postal Service ''to adopt, amend, and repeal such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this title, as may be necessary in the execution of its functions under this title and such other functions as may be assigned to the Postal Service under any provisions of law outside of this title.'' Section 401 further grants the Postal Service ''all other powers incidental, necessary, or appropriate to the carrying on of its functions or the exercise of its specific powers.'' Section 404 grants the Postal Service specific powers, including the power ''to provide for the collection, handling, transportation, delivery, forwarding, returning, and holding of mail, and for the disposition of undeliverable mail.''

The proposed rule would apply uniform standards for the mailing of absentee ballots to and from voters, which the Postal Service understands will facilitate the faithful execution of federal law. The Postal Service has the authority to change its regulations to achieve this purpose. *See* 39 U.S.C. 401(2) (noting that the Postal Service can issue regulations as necessary to execute functions assigned to it by law); *see, e.g.,* 52 U.S.C. 10307; 52 U.S.C. 20511; *cf.* 18 U.S.C. 3061(b) (authorizing the Postal Service to investigate crimes regarding ''the use of the mails'' and other appropriate crimes as determined by agreement with the Attorney General). The regulations as proposed accord with that authority, because as detailed below they set forth mailpiece preparation and data reporting standards that can provide information regarding the sending of ballots through the mails that would be available for use by law enforcement, and are consistent with title 39 of the U.S. Code. Additionally, the proposed changes would implement best practices for Postal Service ballot mailing operations, thereby advancing execution of a key Postal Service function.

The Postal Service therefore proposes to amend DMM Section 705 with the provisions described herein. The DMM is incorporated by reference into 39 CFR 111.1 and 111.3.

Proposed Rule

The Postal Service is proposing to add a section to DMM 705, *Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems,* that contains the following preparation conditions when mailing ballots for general, special, or run-off federal elections, except that these conditions do not apply to ballots covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 *et seq.*):

Envelope Design and Review Standards

- DMM 705.24.3 would identify new standards for the envelope design and review for outbound and return ballot

envelopes, which are consistent with the Postal Service's existing recommended best practices. These standards include the use of the official Election Mail logo, automation compatibility, placement of a uniquely serialized Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb) on each outbound and return ballot envelope, and a mailpiece design review.

The mail preparation standards improve the visibility of ballots in the mailstream and are consistent with the Postal Service's current ballot mail preparation recommendations as provided in DMM 703.8.4. The Postal Service currently has resources available to assist with compliance with these standards, which it will continue to make available. An example of a resource currently provided to election officials regarding mailpiece preparation is the ''2026–2027 Official Election Mail Guide (Kit 600)'', which is available at *https://about.usps.com/kits/kit600.pdf.*

The Election Mail Logo is an important tool for mailpiece visibility. It allows voters to recognize Election Mail as important and distinct from other mailings, and also serves to identify official Election Mail for Postal Service employees and distinguishes it from the millions of other mailpieces that are processed daily. Certain long-standing Postal Service practices—including the use of Extraordinary Measures during the period of time before elections that are designed to return ballots from voters to election officials faster than the ordinary mail processes would permit—require the Postal Service to be able to visually identify ballots, which the Election Mail Logo facilitates. Incorporating this logo will thus further facilitate the identification of such ballots.

Ensuring ballot mail is ''automation compatible'' and meets mailpiece design standards means that ballot mail can be processed effectively on the Postal Service's mail processing equipment without unexpected complications or delays in operations, and that the relevant barcodes can be scanned as the piece moves through the mailstream.

Uniquely serialized IMbs facilitate the tracking of individual pieces of Ballot Mail to and from individual voters as the barcodes are scanned on the Postal Service's mail processing equipment. The barcode simplifies data by consolidating information for multiple Postal Service identifiers into one comprehensive location.

Pre-Election Notification of Intent To Use Postal System for Ballot Delivery

• DMM 705.24.2 would provide for an optional pre-mailing notice that states may provide to the Postal Service, and facilitate the process for states to enroll individuals with the Postal Service for inclusion on state-specific lists for mail-in and absentee ballot participation.

This provision would allow states to notify the Postal Service of their intent to use the mail to facilitate their election processes. By disclosing relevant points of contact, it will allow the Postal Service to more expeditiously provide technical and other assistance in advance of the election. It will also facilitate the adoption of the new elements of ballot mailing that are proposed in this regulation.

Mail-In and Absentee Participation List

• DMM 705.24.4 would establish a process by which (1) states (including authorized election officials and their mail service providers) will notify the Postal Service of the individuals to whom they are mailing a mail-in or absentee ballot, along with the unique barcode applied to the outbound and return ballot mail envelope for such individuals such that the name and barcode of the voter will be included on a Mail-In and Absentee Participation List; (2) states (including authorized election officials and their mail service providers) may thereafter add to or modify the list of enrollees until the last day that ballots may be mailed out to individuals under state law; and (3) the Postal Service will provide to each state's chief election official a final State-Specific Mail-In and Absentee Participation List for each state compiling the names of all enrolled individuals in such state, along with the barcodes associated with such individuals' mail-in or absentee ballots.

This provision will help determine adherence to federal law and facilitate law enforcement efforts. For example, the provided lists will evidence how many ballots have been mailed, and allow law enforcement officials to compare the total number of mailed ballots to the total number of received ballots to detect potential issues meriting further investigation. This is accomplished by ensuring that individuals who receive a mail-in or absentee ballot are included on the State-Specific Participation Lists. It is further accomplished by associating the specific barcodes on the ballot envelopes with the intended recipients of ballot mail. As noted above, these barcodes provide visibility into ballot mail transmission based on scan data that is generated as the ballots move through the mail.

Under this proposal, states would retain full control over who would (or would not) be able to vote by mail in federal elections within each state, as states would control enrollment with the Postal Service for inclusion on the state's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List. States would provide the Postal Service with this information via the Federal Ballot Mail Portal. Once a state has completed its ballot mailings, the Postal Service would compile the information provided by that state and then provide the compiled list to the state as that state's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List. The Postal Service would not change the information provided by the state when compiling the lists. As noted below, the Postal Service would provide technical assistance to states and localities regarding the secure submission of this data.

Ensuring Compliance With New Standards

• DMM 705.24.5 would establish a verification standard to support transmission of compliant mail-in or absentee ballots.

The proposed rule also implements a verification procedure for compliance with the proposed standards prior to acceptance by the Postal Service of the outbound ballot mailpiece and the blank return ballots included within such mailings. The verification process by the Postal Service would confirm that a state submitted a list consistent with the conditions laid out in the proposed rule, and that the outbound ballot mail, and thus the blank ballot that could be returned by mail, is destined to individuals on the list, by checking the barcodes. The Postal Service would not verify whether individuals should or should not be included on a State's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List. States will retain full control over the content of that list.

The Postal Service is not proposing to apply these standards to primary elections or to UOCAVA ballots. Primary elections largely involve political parties selecting nominees through their chosen procedures, rather than direct election of federal officials, and thus implicate different considerations that bear on the necessity for these provisions. Moreover, UOCAVA is a separate federal statutory scheme with its own requirements, including different timing constraints and deadlines. The Postal Service welcomes comments on these issues, however.

As required under existing postal regulations, mailers must comply with all applicable postal laws and regulations governing mailability and preparation for mailing, as well as

nonpostal laws and regulations on the possession, treatment, transmission, or transfer of particular matter. Coinciding with publication of any final rule, to facilitate compliance by officials mailing ballots to voters, the Postal Service intends to provide further technical instructions regarding barcode creation, service type identifiers, acceptance processes, file preparation, documentation submission, and entry of data into the proposed portal.

The Postal Service will also take steps necessary for the creation of a new system of records notice (''SORN'') in accordance with the Privacy Act. Notice regarding the new SORN is forthcoming.

Election Mail Practices

The Postal Service will continue to engage with state and local election officials to advise on mailing conditions and best practices. The Postal Service will also continue to offer technical support to election officials and their mail service providers.

Additional information about the Postal Service's Election Mail practices and procedures, as well as other resources, are available at *https://about.usps.com/what/government-services/election-mail/.*

The proposed rule would not make changes to the Postal Service's longstanding Election Mail practices concerning the processing and delivery of ballots that enter the mailstream, including completed ballots mailed by voters to election officials. In fact, consistent use of our best practices recommendations will enhance these efforts. For example, the Postal Service will, consistent with prior elections, continue to perform extraordinary measures to deliver completed ballots, and, as previously announced, will issue further guidance on such extraordinary measures prior to the general election on November 3, 2026. Extraordinary measures include steps taken by the Postal Service to accelerate the delivery of Return Ballot Mail beyond the Postal Service's typical operations and service expectations.

Request for Comments

Consistent with the Order, the Postal Service is issuing this notice of proposed rulemaking and invites comments on any and all provisions of the proposed DMM addition. During the comment period, the Postal Service plans to work with stakeholder groups to discuss the proposed rule and its implementation.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(b), (c)) regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 U.S.C. 410(a), the Postal Service invites public comment on the proposed revisions to Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations.

We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes if our proposal is adopted.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, the Postal Service proposes the following changes to Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations (see 39 CFR 111.1):

PART 111—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 13 U.S.C. 301–307; 18 U.S.C. 1692–1737; 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633, and 5001.

■ 2. Revise the following sections of *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service,* Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), as follows:

Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)

* * * * *

705 Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems

* * * * *

[Insert after 705.23 the following:]

24.0 Ballot Mail for Federal Elections

24.1 Definitions

For the purposes of Section 705.24, the following definitions apply:

a. *Authorized ballot mailer* means an election official of a state or a political subdivision thereof who is responsible for sending mail-in or absentee ballots to eligible voters of that state or political subdivision; or an individual or entity, such as a mail service provider, that an election official has authorized to send mail-in or absentee ballots by mail on the election official's behalf.

b. *Ballot Portal User* means the chief election official of each state and any individual or entity, such as a mail service provider or an election official of that state or a political subdivision thereof, authorized by the chief election official to provide information through the Postal Service Federal Ballot Mail Portal as described in 24.4.2.b.

c. *Mail-in or absentee ballot* means a physical ballot, other than a ballot provided at a designated polling place, that may be used to cast a vote in a federal election. For the purposes of Section 705.24, a mail-in or absentee ballot does not include a ballot mailed under 703.8.8 or 703.8.9.

d. *Outbound Federal Ballot Mail* means any mailpiece containing a mail-in or absentee ballot for a federal election sent from an authorized ballot mailer to an individual voter.

e. *Return Federal Ballot Mail* means any mailpiece containing a mail-in or absentee ballot for a federal election sent from an individual voter to an election office, or an authorized recipient of ballot mail, of a state or a political subdivision thereof.

f. *Federal election* means any general, special, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President; or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress. This definition does not include primary elections.

g. *State* includes all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

h. *Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb)* has the meaning provided in 204.1.2.1.

i. *Official Election Mail logo* is a unique registered trademark designed exclusively for inclusion in the design of Official Election Mail. The conditions of use are provided in Publication 631, *Official Election Mail—Graphic Guidelines and Logos.*

24.2 Optional 90-Day Pre-Mailing Notice

A state's chief election official may notify the Postal Service, no fewer than 90 days prior to a federal election, of its intent to allow for mail-in or absentee ballots in the federal election to be transmitted by the Postal Service. This notification should indicate whether the state intends to submit to the Postal Service the information described in 24.4.2.b to the Postal Service Federal Ballot Mail Portal as set forth in 24.4.2.d.

A state's failure to provide the optional 90-day notice to the Postal Service under 24.2 will not prevent enrollment under 24.4.

24.3 Federal Ballot Mail

24.3.1 Outbound Federal Ballot Mail Envelope Standards

Outbound Federal Ballot Mail must be mailed in an envelope that:

a. Includes the official Election Mail logo;

b. Is automation compatible;

c. Bears a unique IMb with the Delivery Point ZIP Code embedded and a Federal Ballot Mail Service Type Identifier (STID); and

d. Has undergone review by the Postal Service for mailpiece design and barcode placement.

24.3.2 Return Federal Ballot Mail Envelope Standards

Return Federal Ballot Mail must be mailed in an envelope that:

a. Includes the official Election Mail logo;

b. Is automation compatible;

c. Bears a unique IMb with the Delivery Point ZIP Code embedded and a Federal Ballot Mail STID; and

d. Has undergone review by the Postal Service for mailpiece design and barcode placement.

24.3.3 Authorized Ballot Mailer Responsibility

Authorized ballot mailers are responsible for barcode creation under 24.3.1 and 24.3.2 as well as envelope design and printing for all ballot mail.

24.3.4 Additional Recommendations

For additional information on the Postal Service's recommendations for all ballot mail, see DMM 703.8.4.

24.4 State-Specific Mail-In and Absentee Participation Lists

24.4.1 Postal Service Federal Ballot Portal User Registration

To access the Postal Service Federal Ballot Mail Portal, each Ballot Portal User must have a registered account. Registration must be completed no later than two business days before an Outbound Federal Ballot mailing. The chief election official of each state is responsible for authorizing the Ballot Portal Users for their state including political subdivisions thereof.

24.4.2 Enrollment

a. Any state that intends to receive mail-in or absentee ballots from individual voters through the Postal Service must ensure that such individuals have been enrolled with the Postal Service for inclusion on the state's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List.

b. In order for an individual to be enrolled with the Postal Service for inclusion on a state's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List, a Ballot Portal User in that state must provide the following information through the Postal Service Federal Ballot Mail Portal:

1. Name of individual receiving a mail-in or absentee ballot;

2. Address of individual receiving a mail-in or absentee ballot;

3. Unique IMb on the Outbound Federal Ballot Mail envelope sent to the individual;

4. Unique IMb on the Return Federal Ballot Mail envelope sent to the individual; and

5. Originating election office state.

c. An individual will be deemed enrolled with the Postal Service for inclusion on a state's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List as of the date that the information in 24.4.2.b is provided.

d. Ballot Portal Users must provide the information in 24.4.2.b at least 30 days before the date of the federal election, to the extent practicable, or by the date on which mail-in or absentee ballots may begin to be mailed under state law. Ballot Portal Users may make supplemental submissions to enroll additional individuals or modify prior submissions until the last day that ballots may be mailed out to individuals under state law. A separate submission is required in connection with each Outbound Federal Ballot mailing, regardless of the number of mailpieces in the mailing.

e. The information provided in 24.4.2.b must meet the Postal Service's technical specifications for the Federal Ballot Mail Portal.

f. Ballot Portal Users must certify to the Postal Service that any mail-in or absentee ballots their state's authorized ballot mailers provide to the Postal Service for mailing meet the standards in 24.3.1 and 24.3.2.

24.4.3 Provision of State-Specific Lists

On or about the date of the federal election, the Postal Service will provide a state-specific Mail-In and Absentee Participant List to each state's chief election official that contains the name and address of each individual in that state who was enrolled through the process set forth in 24.4.2, along with the unique IMb associated with the Outbound and Return Federal Ballot Mail sent to each such individual.

24.5 Outbound Federal Ballot Mail Verification

24.5.1 Procedure

Using the information provided in 24.4.2, the Postal Service will review mailings identified as Outbound Federal Ballot Mail prior to acceptance to evaluate whether the mailing meets the standards in 24.3.1 and is being sent to individuals who have been enrolled with the Postal Service for inclusion on the state's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List, consistent with the technical specifications for the Federal Ballot Mail Portal.

24.5.2 Authorized Verification

Mailings identified as Outbound Federal Ballot Mail are verified by Postal Service employees when presented for acceptance. Consistent with existing Postal regulations regarding commercial postage categories, mailings of Outbound Federal Ballot Mail with 200 or more pieces of Marketing Mail or 500 or more pieces of First-Class Mail must be entered at a facility that performs business mail acceptance functions. Mailings of Outbound Federal Ballot Mail that do not meet this volume threshold must be entered either at a facility that performs business mail acceptance functions or at a Postal Service retail counter. Postal Service personnel are not authorized to open mail sealed against inspection, except under circumstances described in ASM 274. The Postal Service's acceptance of Outbound Federal Ballot Mail does not constitute verified compliance.

24.5.3 Noncompliance

a. Mailings that do not comply with 24.5.1 and 24.5.2 will not be accepted and will be returned to the authorized ballot mailer. The authorized ballot mailer or Ballot Portal User must address the error(s) before resubmitting the mailing.

b. Mailings from any authorized ballot mailer for any state that has not submitted a certification pursuant to 24.4.2.f will not be accepted and will be returned to the authorized ballot mailer.

c. An authorized ballot mailer may request further review by the Postal Service if Outbound Federal Ballot Mail is not accepted.

d. The Postal Service assumes no responsibility for any outbound ballot mailing presented until it is accepted into the mail. The Postal Service is not responsible for service delays when the Ballot Portal User or authorized ballot mailer does not meet the applicable preparation or entry standards.

e. Authorized ballot mailers must comply with all applicable postal laws and regulations governing mailability and preparation for mailing, as well as nonpostal laws and regulations on the possession, treatment, transmission, or transfer of particular matter.

24.6 Non-Interference With State or Federal Election Laws

This rule relates only to the use of the U.S. Mail. The Postal Service does not purport to alter the eligibility of any

individual to vote under state or federal law. The Postal Service does not have any legal responsibility for management of state voter rolls or administration of federal elections within each state. States are fully responsible for the contents of each State's Mail-In and Absentee Participation List.

Daria Valan,

Attorney, Ethics & Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2026–10968 Filed 5–29–26; 12:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 195

[Docket No. PHMSA–2025–1271]

RIN 2137–AG22

Pipeline Safety: Breakout Tank Inspection Rule

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: Breakout tanks are used to ''relieve surges in a hazardous liquid pipeline system'' or to ''receive and store hazardous liquid transported by a pipeline for reinjection and continued transportation by pipeline.'' American Petroleum Institute Standard 653 (API Std 653) sets industry standards for the inspection, repair, alteration, and reconstruction of aboveground storage tanks. PHMSA currently incorporates the 3rd edition of API Std 653 (issued December 2001) by reference into its regulations for breakout tanks. In this rulemaking, PHMSA is proposing to update its regulations for breakout tanks to incorporate the 5th edition of API Std 653 (issued November 2014) by reference. As a key part of this, PHMSA is proposing to authorize the use of risk-based inspection (RBI) procedures for establishing the inspection intervals of in-service breakout tanks.

DATES: Comments on this NPRM must be submitted by August 3, 2026. A public meeting of PHMSA's statutory advisory committees will be held on a date to be announced in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by one of the following methods, identifying docket number PHMSA–2025–1271 on the top of the first page:

- Electronically at *https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the ''submit a comment'' instructions.
- Mail and hand delivery to Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Hand delivery is available to this address between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Include two copies if submitting by mail. To receive confirmation that PHMSA has received your comments, include a self-addressed stamped postcard.
- By fax to 1–202–493–2251.

Comments may be viewed at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/PHMSA-2025-1271.* Comments are posted without changes or edits, including any personal information provided. DOT's privacy statement can be reviewed at *https://www.dot.gov/privacy.*

Confidential Business Information: 49 CFR 190.343 provides for the submission of Confidential Business Information (CBI) to PHMSA. If your comment contains commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private and that you actually treat as private, you must clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI, by taking the following steps: (1) mark as ''confidential'' each page of the original document submission containing CBI; (2) along with the original document, send PHMSA a redacted copy of the original document with the CBI deleted; and (3) explain why the information you are submitting is CBI. Send submissions containing CBI to Sayler Palabrica at the contact information listed below. Any comment PHMSA receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sayler Palabrica, Standards and Rulemaking Division, by phone at 202–744–0825 or by email at *sayler.palabrica@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Executive Summary

API Std 653 sets standards for the inspection, repair, alteration, and reconstruction of aboveground storage tanks. PHMSA currently incorporates the 3rd edition of API Std 653, as issued in December 2001 with addenda and errata through April 2008, by reference into its part 195 regulations for breakout tanks. Breakout tanks are tanks that operators use to ''relieve surges in a hazardous liquid pipeline system'' or to ''receive and store hazardous liquid transported by a pipeline for reinjection and continued transportation by pipeline.'' (49 CFR 195.2).

In this rulemaking, PHMSA is proposing to update its part 195 regulations for breakout tanks to incorporate the 5th edition of API Std 653, as issued in November 2014 with addendums and errata through July 2025, by reference. PHMSA is also proposing to revise § 195.432 to authorize the use of RBI procedures for establishing the inspection intervals of in-service breakout tanks. PHMSA estimates that adopting this proposal will result in cost savings of between $24.5 to $125.7 million per year using a three percent discount rate or between $29.3 to $150.1 million per year using a seven percent discount rate.

II. Background

PHMSA's Federal safety standards at part 195 apply to breakout tanks. Breakout tanks are used by pipeline operators to ''relieve surges in a hazardous liquid pipeline system'' or to ''receive and store hazardous liquid transported by a pipeline for reinjection and continued transportation by pipeline.'' (49 CFR 195.2). Breakout tanks are subject to certain specific requirements in part 195, including (1) § 195.205, which prescribes requirements for the repair, alteration, and reconstruction of in-service breakout tanks; (2) § 195.307, which prescribes requirements for pressure testing aboveground breakout tanks; and (3) § 195.432, which prescribes requirements for the inspection of in-service breakout tanks. While not relevant to the proposals at issue in this proceeding, the general requirements in part 195 for pipeline systems and pipeline facilities also apply to breakout tanks, subject to a conflict preemption provision.[1]

PHMSA's regulations for breakout tanks date to the 1969 final rule that prescribed the original version of the part 195 regulations.[2] One of those regulations, codified at § 195.432, established requirements for the inspection of storage vessels. It stated that ''[e]ach carrier shall, at intervals not exceeding 12 months, inspect each

[1] 49 CFR 195.1(c) ''Breakout tanks that are subject to this part must comply with requirements that apply specifically to breakout tanks and, to the extent applicable, with requirements that apply to pipeline systems and pipeline facilities. If a conflict exists between a requirement that applies specifically to breakout tanks and a requirement that applies to pipeline systems or pipeline facilities, the requirement that applies specifically to breakout tanks prevails.''

[2] *Requirements for Design, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance,* 34 FR 15473 (Oct. 4, 1969).

storage vessel (including atmospheric and pressure tanks).'' [3]

In 1981, a PHMSA predecessor, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), issued a final rule recodifying the part 195 regulations to reflect the enactment of the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–129).[4] As part of the recodification, RSPA readopted the inspection requirements in § 195.432 and added a definition for the term ''breakout tank.'' [5] The following year, RSPA issued another final rule adjusting the inspection interval in § 195.432 to provide operators with additional scheduling flexibility. Rather than requiring a fixed 12-month interval, RSPA amended § 195.432 to permit the inspection of breakout tanks ''at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.'' [6]

Nearly two decades later, in 1999, RSPA issued a final rule that substantially revised the part 195 regulations for breakout tanks.[7] The final rule incorporated 13 consensus industry standards by reference for the design, construction, testing, repair, alteration, and replacement of breakout tanks. One of those standards was the 2nd edition of API Std 653, which RSPA incorporated into an amended version of § 195.432 as an alternative to the annual calendar year inspection traditionally required.[8] Then, in 2010, PHMSA incorporated by reference the 3rd edition of API Std 653.[9] Because the 3rd edition was the first to include RBI procedures, this amendment had the effect of authorizing operators to perform RBI inspections under section 6.4 of API Std 653.

In 2015, PHMSA issued a final rule that, among other things, incorporated updated editions of certain referenced consensus industry standards and made other miscellaneous amendments to part 195. PHMSA retained the 3rd edition of API Std 653 in the final rule, which had been incorporated by reference in an earlier rulemaking proceeding,[10] but amended § 195.432 to prohibit the use of the RBI procedures authorized in that standard for determining alternative internal inspection intervals. PHMSA justified that prohibition by pointing to concerns with the RBI procedures in API Std 653, particularly use of certain discretionary language and provisions allowing an operator to exceed prescriptive limits on predicted bottom plate metal loss or extend the 20-year inspection interval.[11]

PHMSA did not analyze separately the costs, benefits, or other impacts of prohibiting the use of the RBI procedures in API Std 653 in the final rule. Rather, PHMSA simply stated that it was ''making non-substantive edits and clarifying regulatory language in certain provisions,'' and that ''[s]ince these editorial changes are relatively minor, this rule would not require pipeline operators to undertake significant new pipeline safety initiatives and would have negligible cost implications.'' [12]

DOT and PHMSA recently asked interested stakeholders to submit ideas to support Presidential deregulatory and energy policy priorities. In April 2025, DOT published a request for information (RFI), titled *Ensuring Lawful Regulation; Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs,* 90 FR 14593 (Apr. 3, 2025), and PHMSA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) titled *Pipeline Safety: Mandatory Regulatory Reviews to Unleash American Energy and Improve Government Efficiency,* 90 FR 23660 (June 4, 2025). In response to the DOT RFI, API and the Liquid Energy Pipeline Association (LEPA) submitted a joint comment that included a request for PHMSA to update API Std 653 to the latest edition and authorize the use of RBI procedures.[13] In response to PHMSA's *Unleashing American Energy* ANPRM, an anonymous individual recommended that PHMSA update references to API Std 653 to the most recent version.[14]

On May 21, 2025, PHMSA published an ANPRM titled *Pipeline Safety: Repair Criteria for Hazardous Liquid and Gas Transmission Pipelines,* 90 FR 21715, which included a request for comment on the inspection requirements for breakout tanks. Several commenters addressed the breakout tank inspection requirements in responding to the ANPRM, including a joint comment from API, LEPA, GPA Midstream Association, and the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (the Associations), and comments from the Colonial Pipeline Company, Enterprise Products Operating LLC, Marathon Pipe Line LLC, International-Matex Tank Terminals LLC, California Resources Corporation, and the Pipeline Safety Trust (PST). Commenters generally supported updating API Std 653 to the latest edition and authorizing the use of RBI procedures.[15] The Associations noted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not restrict the use of RBI under the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures rules in 40 CFR part 112, and cited significant costs, environmental impacts, and worker safety hazards associated with unnecessary internal inspections of tanks. The Associations estimated quantified annual cost savings of $220 million based on an average assessment interval and described improved safety performance from operators that have applied RBI principles to plant piping at refineries and other facilities.[16] Individual operators provided similar comments on the costs and consequences of internal inspections and recommended allowing RBI procedures in accordance with recent editions of API Std 653.[17] PST supported extending the inspection intervals using RBI to mitigate risk to workers when preparing for and conducting inspections, but recommended additional robotic inspection conditions.[18]

III. Discussion

Consistent with the comments and policies described above, PHMSA proposes to revise § 195.3 to update

[3] 34 FR at 15482.

[4] *Transportation of Liquids by Pipeline,* 46 FR 38357 (July 27, 1981).

[5] 46 FR at 38358–59, 38372. For additional information about the development of PHMSA's breakout tank definition, *see Exxon Corp.* v. *U.S. Sec'y of Transp.,* 978 F. Supp. 946, 949–54 (E.D. Wash. 1997).

[6] *Transportation of Natural and Other Gas and Hazardous Liquids by Pipeline; Inspection and Test Intervals,* 47 FR 46850, 46852 (Oct. 21, 1982).

[7] *Pipeline Safety: Adoption of Consensus Standards for Breakout Tanks,* 64 FR 15926 (Apr. 2, 1999).

[8] 64 FR at 15926, 15932.

[9] *Pipeline Safety: Periodic Updates of Regulatory References to Technical Standards and Miscellaneous Edits,* 75 FR 48593 (Aug. 11, 2010).

[10] *Pipeline Safety: Periodic Updates of Regulatory References to Technical Standards and Miscellaneous Amendments,* 80 FR 168, 171 (Jan. 1, 2015). PHMSA incorporated the 3rd edition of API Std 653 by reference in a 2010 final rule, which also made a minor editorial correction to align § 195.432 with the updated provisions in that standard. *Pipeline Safety: Periodic Updates of Regulatory References to Technical Standards and Miscellaneous Edits,*75 FR 48593, 48600, 48605 (Aug. 11, 2010).

[11] 80 FR at 171, 185.

[12] 80 FR at 176.

[13] Associations, Comment, Docket ID DOT–OST–2025–0026–0874 (May 6, 2025).

[14] Anonymous, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0050–0005 (June 9, 2025).

[15] *E.g.,* California Resources Corp., Comment, PHMSA–2025–0019–0017, at 6–7 (July 21, 2025); International-Matex Tank Terminals LLC, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0026, at 2–3 (Aug. 1, 2025).

[16] Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 76–77 (July 21, 2025).

[17] *E.g.,* Colonial Pipeline Co., Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 19–20 (July 21, 2025); Enterprise Products Operating LLC, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0015, at 8–9 (July 21, 2025); Marathon Pipe Line LLC, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0018, at 1–2 (July 21, 2025).

[18] PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA 2025–0019–0016, at 9 (July 21, 2025).

references to API Std 653; to revise § 195.432 to authorize the use of RBI procedures with upper limits on the alternative internal inspection intervals; and to make other conforming revisions to part 195.

A. Incorporation by Reference: Update API Std 653 From the 3rd Edition to the 5th Edition

PHMSA proposes to add API Standard 653, ''Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction,'' 5th edition, November 2014, (including addendum 1 (April 2018), addendum 2 (May 2020), addendum 3 (November 2023), errata 1 (March 2020), errata 2 (February 2025), and addendum 4 (July 2025)), to the list of incorporated-by-reference documents at § 195.3(b)(18). This updated edition would replace existing references to the 3rd edition of API Std 653, as issued in December 2001 with addenda and errata issued through April 2008.[19] After the incorporation, operators would be required to follow the specified requirements in the 5th edition of API Std 653 in complying with the requirements for the repair, alteration, and reconstruction of breakout tanks in §§ 195.205(b) and 195.307(d), and the periodic inspection requirements for atmospheric and low-pressure aboveground storage tanks in § 195.432 (addressed in section III.B below).

As noted in comments submitted by API and LEPA in responding to the *Repair Criteria* ANPRM, the 5th edition of API Std 653 has several revisions from the 3rd edition of API Std 653 to incorporate new or improved technologies and practices for inspection, examination, and repair of breakout tanks. PHMSA has preliminarily determined that these changes enhance safety, improve operational efficiency and flexibility, and improve clarity. Among the most comprehensive changes since the 3rd edition are the incorporation of new requirements in section 9.2.4 for door sheets cut out of the tank to provide temporary access to the interior of the tank. These new requirements, which cover the design, temporary stiffening, inspection, and restoration of door plates ensure that the removal, reinstallation, or replacement of the door sheet does not compromise the integrity of the tank. Safety-enhancing changes include prohibiting door sheets from crossing vertical riveted and lap welded seams, special design and inspection requirements for door sheets that cross horizontal seams, and consideration for welds near riveted seams in order to prevent heat-related leakage.

Section 9.10.2.2 was also redrafted, covering requirements for installing new bearing plates supporting the weight of the tank roof when the tank bottom plate is replaced. The requirements are intended to minimize risks from wear and corrosion of the tank bottom from bearing plates. The 5th edition has introduced more specific design and material requirements for bearing plates based on whether the roof is steel or aluminum, which influences both wear and corrosion risk. This provides a higher level of safety for tanks with steel roofs while allowing more flexible design for those with lighter aluminum roofs unless there is evidence that certain designs would introduce corrosion threats. The guidelines for performing settlement analysis in Annex B were also overhauled in the 4th edition to adopt additional modern evaluation methods that PHMSA expects will improve operators' evaluation of settlement and the resulting strains it puts on tanks.

In addition to the more significant revisions affecting repair, alteration, and reconstruction, cumulative edits since the 3rd edition include a number of minor revisions and clarifications that enhance the legibility and enforceability of the standard. These include clarifications regarding as-built standards, adopting a definition for ''reconstruction,'' and revising cross references to other sections or secondary references to be more specific. Similarly, revisions since the 3rd edition regarding the applicability of hydrostatic testing requirements in section 12.3 simplify its structure and provide more clarity regarding when hydrostatic testing for ''major repairs or major alterations'' is required. In general, hydrostatic testing continues to be required for tanks that have been reconstructed, undergone major repairs or alterations, experienced certain operational changes, or been damaged.

B. Physical Inspection Requirements and Risk-Based Inspection (§ 195.432)

Section 195.432 references API Std 653 to define periodic inspection requirements for atmospheric and low-pressure steel above-ground breakout tanks. Section 6 of the 3rd edition of API Std 653 requires routine in-service inspections, external inspections, external ultrasonic thickness measurements of the tank shell, exterior cathodic protection surveys of the tank bottom (if applicable), and internal inspections of the tank bottom and shell. These inspections are intended to monitor the physical condition of the storage tank, particularly to measure the extent and rate of corrosion of the tank bottom and shell. The 3rd edition of API Std 653 also establishes a minimum frequency for these inspections, but the standard requires an operator to consider other factors when determining the inspection interval. The requirements for routine in-service inspections, external inspections, ultrasonic thickness inspections, and cathodic protection surveys are unchanged since the 3rd edition and would therefore not be affected by this proposed rule.

Internal inspections of in-service breakout tanks are the most consequential of the required physical inspections because the tank usually must be taken out of service and cleaned, and the interior of the tank must be accessed to perform the inspection. Section 6.4.2.1 of the 3rd edition of API Std 653 requires operators to determine the internal inspection interval when not applying RBI based on comparing measured corrosion growth rates against the minimum required bottom thickness in Table 6–1, but with a maximum internal inspection interval of 20 years, or 10 years when the corrosion growth rates are not known per section 6.4.2.2. While section 6.4.3 of the 3rd edition of API Std 653 provides for an alternative internal inspection interval based on RBI procedures that allow an operator to extend the internal inspection interval beyond 20 years based on the result of the RBI analysis, § 195.432(b) prohibits the application of the RBI-based alternative inspection interval.

Based on PHMSA's review of improvements to the RBI procedures since the 3rd edition of API Std 653 and risk-assessment information provided in public comments, PHMSA proposes to revise § 195.432 to authorize the use of RBI for determining the internal inspection interval for breakout tanks in accordance with the 5th edition of API Std 653. When establishing an internal inspection interval, PHMSA proposes a maximum timeline of 20 years for performing an initial inspection and a maximum reinspection interval of 25 years.[20] Due to the high cost of performing internal inspections, this change will result in cost savings and increased uptime for breakout tanks.

[19] API Standard 653, *Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction* (3rd ed. Dec. 2001). All references to the 3rd edition of API Std 653 in this document include addendum 1 (September 2003), addendum 2 (November 2005), addendum 3 (February 2008), and errata (April 2008).

[20] PHMSA requests comment on these time periods and whether any new technologies may justify longer maximum timelines, with accompanying data.

Doubling the time window for performing the initial inspection from the current 10-year limit will be particularly impactful. Additional safeguards are required in this proposal by PHMSA as a condition for the extended inspection interval to ensure appropriate pipeline safety.

While the potential impact of a tank bottom failure can be severe due to the large volume of product involved, the application of a robust RBI is intended to and should minimize the probability of failure.[21] Improvements in the 5th edition of API Std 653, including enhanced inspection and repair requirements, credits for installing tank safeguards, and more rigorous RBI requirements, reduce the probability and potential consequences of a release and improve the accuracy of operators' risk analyses. PHMSA is also proposing limits to the maximum inspection interval to further reduce risk.

API made significant improvements to the 5th edition of API Std 653 that address concerns raised by PHMSA during the 2015 rulemaking that prohibited the application of RBI. The requirements for establishing the frequency of internal inspections and RBI requirements in section 6.4 of the 5th edition of API Std 653 have been rewritten. These changes are supplemented by two standalone recommended practices, which PHMSA is not proposing to incorporate by reference but are referenced in the 5th edition of API Std 653. The first, API Recommended Practice 580 *Elements of a Risk-Based Inspection Program,* addresses mandatory elements of RBI procedures generally. The second, API Recommended Practice 581 *Risk-Based Inspection Methodology,* provides additional guidance on performing a semi-quantitative RBI.[22]

Collectively, the changes in the 5th edition of API Std 653 provide a more enforceable and rigorous standard with a clearer nexus between operator-defined performance targets, and inspection and maintenance decision-making. The RBI requirements in section 6.4.2.2.2 of API Std 653 now reference API RP 580 to define required elements of the operator's RBI analysis, and section 6.4.2.2.2.1 and 6.4.2.2.2.2 of the 5th edition of API Std 653 replaces the list of attributes that ''should be considered'' with 18 likelihood factors and 13 consequence factors that must be evaluated. RBI requirements in section 13 of API RP 580 and guidance in API RP 581 provide more information on how to use the risk evaluation in the RBI analysis to drive inspection and maintenance decision-making. Section 6.4.2.2.2 of the 5th edition of API Std 653 defines requirements for developing, reviewing, and updating an RBI analysis, including a requirement that the analysis be developed by subject matter experts knowledgeable in risk management and design construction and maintenance of storage tanks. Finally, section 6.4.2.2.2 requires an RBI analysis to be validated, ideally by a third party, and reviewed at least once every 10 years or when changes to processes, equipment, or consequences warrant a review.

In addition to improving RBI procedures, the 5th edition restructures the inspection interval requirements to better distinguish when the initial inspection interval applies and when an operator can use an RBI approach to determine the appropriate subsequent internal inspections interval. For example, in section 6.4.2.1 of the 5th edition of API Std 653, newly installed tank bottoms are subject to a more stringent initial inspection interval. However, when an operator installs a new bottom on an existing tank, they may apply a longer inspection interval only permissible for subsequent inspections provided the operator satisfies all the conditions listed in section 6.4.2.1 (a) through (d). In comparison, section 6.4.2.2 of the 3rd edition broadly applies the initial inspection interval to tanks ''when corrosion rates are not known and similar service experience is not available,'' a standard that is not as well-defined. PHMSA expects that more clearly defining when the more stringent initial inspection interval is and is not fit for purpose will enhance safety, provide regulatory certainty, and result in potential cost savings.

Section 6.4.2.1.1 of the 5th edition of API Std. 653 prescribes a maximum initial inspection interval of 20 years (or 30 years if a release prevention barrier is in place), it does not place a time limitation on subsequent inspection intervals if an operator is using an RBI approach. PHMSA is proposing a different approach.

The 5th edition of API Std 653 provides direction on selecting reliability targets via reference to API RP 580 and API RP 581 but does not define what those targets should be. The 5th edition of API Std 653 and API RP 580 also describe the requirements for performing a rigorous risk assessment, but do not prescribe reliability or total consequence targets that would anchor the selected inspection interval. In the absence of performance targets in the RBI procedures, PHMSA supports a reasonable maximum interval for initial and subsequent internal inspections. PHMSA proposes a maximum inspection interval of 20 years for the initial inspection and 25 years for subsequent inspections. PHMSA proposes that these are reasonable maximum intervals as they reflect those that had been adopted into API Std 653 and applied by industry. The proposed limits correspond to the maximum initial inspection interval prescribed in the 5th edition of API Std 653 and the maximum interval for subsequent internal inspections for tanks without a release prevention barrier that appeared in section 6.4.2.2 of the 4th edition of API Std 653 prior to 2012.

Preventing a failure is the main objective of the internal inspection program, particularly for the initial inspection that establishes the corrosion rate. A release prevention barrier and leak detection system can mitigate the consequences of a tank leak but do not prevent a tank bottom failure from occurring. Releases into containment can still be consequential, and PHMSA expects operators to prevent product releases from occurring. While the proposal does not allow an operator to extend an inspection interval beyond the maximum interval based on the presence of a release prevention barrier, they may be considered as part of the RBI risk assessment for initial and subsequent inspections, and an operator may credit it as a tank safeguard in accordance with Table 6.1 in the 5th edition of API Std 653. PHMSA seeks comments on whether to set minimum standards for reliability or consequences as part of the RBI procedures within the regulations.

Implementation, inspection, and enforcement of RBI procedures inherently relies more heavily on the engineering judgement of operators and Federal and State inspectors compared with the more prescriptive standards for determining an internal inspection interval based on corrosion rates. In the 1999 final rule that originally adopted API Std 653 and other consensus standards for breakout tanks, PHMSA discussed the role of engineering judgment in compliance and inspection of programs based on consensus

[21] PHMSA is currently investigating an accident involving the estimated release of 9,000 barrels of gasoline through a manmade hole in the bottom of an aboveground storage tank in Aston, Pennsylvania. *See In the Matter of MIPC, LLC, a subsidiary of Monroe Energy, LLC,* CPF No. 1–2025–048–CAO. The preliminary results of PHMSA's investigation do not indicate that the interval for conducting an internal inspection of the tank caused or contributed to the accident.

[22] API, Recommended Practice 580, *Elements of a Risk-Based Inspection Program* (4th ed. Aug. 2023, Addendum 1 Mar. 2025) (API RP 580); API, Recommended Practice 581, *Risk-based Inspection Methodology,* (4th ed. Jan. 2023) (API RP 581).

standards. PHMSA noted that when a standard, specification, or code calls for the use of engineering judgment, PHMSA will not object to the use of that judgment but will compare the judgment used by operators to make adequate risk-based decisions against what is reasonable under the circumstances.[23] Consistent with that intent, PHMSA retains the authority to inspect an operator's RBI analysis and tank inspection schedule. If PHMSA finds that an operator's procedures are unreasonable or inconsistent with sound engineering judgment or fails to provide an adequate minimum level of safety, PHMSA will take appropriate enforcement action.

PHMSA does not propose to adopt the PST recommendation to condition the use of RBI on periodic robotic inspection.[24] PHMSA recognizes the value that more frequent, but less invasive, inspections to measure corrosion between out-of-service inspections could provide to risk-based programs for managing breakout tanks. On-stream inspections may be especially valuable for establishing a corrosion growth rate early in the tank's lifecycle, provided the inspection includes an adequately large sample of the tank bottom. PHMSA encourages API to consider developing recommended practices for in-service robotic inspections and integrating data from such inspections in future editions of API Std 653. Meanwhile, PHMSA notes that an operator may use the special permit process under § 190.341 to evaluate the viability of on-stream inspection or other technologies as alternatives to the proposed inspection requirements and limitations, subject to PHMSA oversight.

C. Reporting

PHMSA proposes minor changes to hazardous liquid pipeline operators' annual report form (PHMSA Form F7000–1.1) and NPMS submission requirements to identify breakout tanks and operators that apply RBI. PHMSA will use this information to measure the safety performance of breakout tanks using the alternative inspection interval. PHMSA also requires this information to plan Federal inspections since auditing RBI procedures involves different risks and skillsets than evaluating compliance using the more prescriptive internal inspection interval.

[23] *Pipeline Safety: Adoption of Consensus Standards for Breakout Tanks,* 64 FR 15926, 15929 (Apr. 2, 1999).

[24] PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0016, at 9.

IV. Availability of Standards Incorporated by Reference

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 60102(p), ''the Secretary may not issue a regulation pursuant to this chapter that incorporates by reference any documents or portions thereof unless the documents or portions thereof are made available to the public, free of charge.'' [25] PHMSA has negotiated an agreement with API to make viewable copies of the 5th edition of API Std 653 available to the public at no cost during the proceedings for this rulemaking. The standard can be accessed at: *https://publications.api.org/IBR-Documents-Under-Consideration.aspx.* In addition, the material can be reasonably obtained by interested parties through the applicable publisher contact information listed in § 195.3 of the amendatory text in this document. Additional information regarding the availability of standards PHMSA incorporates by reference may be found at *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/standards-rulemaking/pipeline/standards-incorporated-reference.*

V. Section-by-Section Analysis

§ 195.3 What documents are incorporated by reference partly or wholly in this part?

Section 195.3 lists the documents incorporated by reference into part 195. PHMSA proposes to revise § 195.3(b)(18) to incorporate by reference the 5th edition of API Std 653 with addenda and errata issued through July 2025. This updated edition would replace existing references to the 3rd edition of API Std 653 with addenda and errata issued through April 2008.

Upon incorporation, the 5th edition of API Std 653 will apply in the following contexts:

- Section 195.205(b): Defining requirements for the repair, alteration, or reconstruction of tanks designed for approximate atmospheric pressure, constructed of carbon and low alloy steel, welded or riveted, and non-refrigerated; and for tanks built to API Std 650 or API Std 12C.
- Section 195.307(d): Determining when repair, alteration, or reconstruction requires hydrostatic testing for steel atmospheric tanks designed for approximate atmospheric pressure, constructed of carbon and low alloy steel, welded or riveted, and non-refrigerated; and for tanks built to API Std 650 or API Std 12C built after October 2, 2000.
- Section 195.432(b): Physical inspection requirements for atmospheric and low-pressure steel above-ground breakout tanks.

The updates to the requirements for scheduling the internal inspection of breakout tanks, including revising § 195.432 to allow RBI, are the most consequential of these changes.

§ 195.49 Annual Report

PHMSA does not propose any amendments to § 195.49 but does propose revising part M of the hazardous liquid pipeline annual report form (PHMSA Form F7000–1.1) to include a count of tanks managed with RBI by volume category.

§ 195.61 National Pipeline Mapping System

PHMSA does not propose any amendments to the NPMS regulations at § 195.61. However, PHMSA proposes to require operators to identify if a breakout tank is managed with RBI when submitting geospatial information about the location of that tank.

§ 195.205 Repair, alteration and reconstruction of aboveground breakout tanks that have been in service.

Section 195.205 references API Std 653 for approved repair, alteration, and reconstruction procedures for breakout tanks built to API Std 650 or its predecessor API Standard 12C. Consistent with PHMSA's proposal to allow RBI, PHMSA proposes an editorial amendment to remove a parenthetical exclusion of RBI procedures. Since this section addresses repair methods rather than internal inspection intervals, reference to procedures for establishing periodic internal inspection intervals is not necessary regardless of the policy adopted in the final rule.

§ 195.432 Inspection of in-service breakout tanks

Section 195.432 requires operators to inspect in-service atmospheric and low-pressure steel above-ground breakout tanks physically in accordance with API Std 653. In addition to updating the edition of API Std 653 that is incorporated by reference in this section to the 5th edition, PHMSA proposes removing the prohibition on using RBI procedures to determine the interval for internal inspections of breakout tanks. PHMSA proposes allowing an operator to determine an internal inspection interval based on an RBI analysis carried out in accordance with the 5th edition of API Std 653, provided the operator retains records necessary to reproduce the analysis, including

[25] Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011, § 24 (Pub. L. 112–90).

information for each required likelihood and consequence factor listed in API Std 653. In addition, PHMSA proposes a maximum internal inspection interval of 20 years for the initial inspection and 25 years for subsequent internal inspections.

Since the deadlines for performing a new internal inspection have passed, and RBI would be authorized under the NPRM, PHMSA proposes to remove the regulations in § 195.432(b)(1) and (2).

VI. Regulatory Analyses and Notices

A. Regulatory Planning and Review—Executive Orders 12866 and 14192, DOT Orders 2100.6B and 2100.7, and the Pipeline Safety Laws

As required by Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 (*Regulatory Planning and Review;* 58 FR 51735 (Oct. 4, 1993)) and DOT Order 2100.6B (*Policies and Procedures for Rulemaking*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Executive Office of the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has reviewed this proposed rule and determined that it is an economically significant regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 12866, along with being a ''major rule'' as defined by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*).[26] In addition, this is a deregulatory action under E.O. 14192 (*Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation;* 90 FR 9065 (Feb. 6, 2025)) and OMB guidance, including M–25–20.[27]

The Pipeline Safety Laws (49 U.S.C. 60102(b)) require that PHMSA ''prepare a risk assessment that . . . identifies the costs and benefits associated with a proposed regulatory change.'' E.O. 12866, as implemented by DOT Order 2100.6B and DOT Order 2100.7, requires agencies to regulate in the ''most cost-effective manner,'' to make a ''reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs,'' and to develop regulations that ''impose the least burden on society.'' In arriving at those conclusions, E.O. 12866 requires that agencies should consider ''both quantifiable measures . . . and qualitative measures of costs and benefits that are difficult to quantify'' and ''maximize net benefits . . . unless a statute requires another regulatory approach.''

Consistent with 49 U.S.C. 60102, E.O. 12866, and DOT Orders 2100.6B and 2100.7, PHMSA conducted a preliminary risk assessment of the economic impact of this proposed rule in a preliminary regulatory impact analysis (PRIA) that is available in the docket for this rulemaking. The PRIA details the costs, cost savings, and benefits of this proposed rule. PHMSA has determined the cost savings and benefits of the proposed rule justify any associated costs notwithstanding the uncertainties identified.

PHMSA expects this proposed rule will result in significant cost savings by reducing regulatory burdens and regulatory uncertainty for hazardous liquid pipeline operators by incorporating by reference the 5th edition of API Std 653 and authorizing RBI. At a seven percent discount rate, PHMSA estimates that reducing the frequency of initial and subsequent internal inspections of breakout tanks based on the results of an RBI analysis will save between $29.3 million to $150.1 million annually, or between $24.5 to $125.7 million annually using a three percent discount rate. PHMSA expects these cost savings also will result in reduced costs for the public, to whom hazardous liquid pipeline operators generally transfer a portion of their compliance costs. Those reduced costs to pipeline operators and the public are consistent with E.O. 14192, which establishes a Federal policy of alleviating ''unnecessary regulatory burdens'' by reducing compliance costs and reducing the risks from non-compliance with burdensome regulations.

In addition to those quantified cost savings, PHMSA expects this proposed rule will have non-quantified benefits to public safety and the environment arising from avoiding the environmental impacts and workplace safety risks associated with unnecessary internal inspections. In addition, PHMSA expects unquantified benefits to pipeline operators and their customers from reducing downtime of tank facilities required to perform internal tank inspections.

B. Energy-Related Executive Orders 13211, 14154, and 14156

The President has declared in E.O. 14156 (*Declaring a National Energy Emergency;* 90 FR 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025)) a national emergency to address the inadequate energy development, production, transportation, refining, and generation capacity of the United States. Similarly, E.O. 14154 (*Unleashing American Energy;* 90 FR 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025)) asserts a Federal policy to unleash American energy by ensuring access to abundant supplies of reliable, affordable energy from (inter alia) the removal of ''undue burden[s]'' on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy resources. PHMSA finds this proposed rule is consistent with each of E.O. 14156 and E.O. 14154. The proposed rule will give hazardous liquid pipeline operators the flexibility to establish internal inspection intervals based on a risk analysis. That increased regulatory flexibility will in turn increase the transportation capacity and reliability for petroleum and petroleum products, and improve hazardous liquid pipeline operators' ability to provide abundant, reliable, affordable energy products in response to consumer and industrial demand.

However, while this proposed rule is a significant action under E.O. 12866, it is not a ''significant energy action'' under E.O. 13211 (*Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use;* 66 FR 28355 (May 22, 2001)). The proposal will not have a significant adverse effect on supply, distribution, or energy use, as further discussed in the PRIA.

C. Executive Order 13132: Federalism

PHMSA analyzed this proposed rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in E.O. 13132 (*Federalism;* 64 FR 43255 (Aug. 10, 1999)) and the Presidential Memorandum (*Preemption;* 74 FR 24693 (May 22, 2009)). While the proposed rule may operate to preempt some State requirements, it would not impose any regulation that has substantial direct effects on the States, the relationship between the National Government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Section 60104(c) of Federal Pipeline Safety Laws prohibits certain State safety regulation of interstate pipelines. Under Federal Pipeline Safety Laws, States that have submitted a current certification under section 60105(a) can augment Federal pipeline safety requirements for intrastate pipelines regulated by PHMSA but may not approve safety requirements less stringent than those required by Federal law. A State may also regulate an intrastate pipeline facility that PHMSA does not regulate. In that instance, the preemptive effect of the proposed rule would be limited to the minimum level necessary to achieve the objectives of the statutory authority under which the proposed rule is

[26] This final rule does not implicate any of the factors identified in section 2(a) of E.O. 14219 (*Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency' Deregulatory Initiative;* 90 FR 10583 (Feb. 25, 2025)) indicative that a regulation is ''unlawful . . . undermine[s] the national interest.''

[27] *See* OMB, M–24–20, *Guidance Implementing Section 3 of E.O. 14192* (Mar. 26, 2025), available at: *https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-20-Guidance-Implementing-Section-3-of-Executive-Order-14192-Titled-Unleashing-Prosperity-Through-Deregulation.pdf.*

promulgated. Therefore, the consultation and funding requirements of E.O. 13132 do not apply.

D. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 603) requires Federal agencies to consider the impact of their rules on small entities, to analyze alternatives that minimize those impacts, and to make their analyses available for public comment. Regulatory flexibility analysis is not required, however, where the agency head certifies that the rule, if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. DOT's implementing guidance—established consistent with E.O. 13272 (*Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking;* 67 FR 53461 (Aug. 16, 2002))—is available online at *https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/rulemaking-requirements-concerning-small-entities.*

PHMSA has considered the anticipated impact that this rule would have and certifies that, if adopted, it will not have a significant economic impact on a significant number of small entities. *See* 5 U.S.C. 605. The proposal allows the use of RBI procedures to schedule initial and subsequent internal inspections within defined technical and safety limits under API Standard 653, while preserving existing compliance pathways for operators that elect not to use RBI. The proposed rule's main impacts are cost savings resulting from additional flexibility to extend the interval between internal inspections where a risk assessment demonstrates that a longer interval is justified given safeguards in place. The cost savings and regulatory flexibility from the proposed rule equally will apply to all entities who may elect to use an RBI procedure and do not disproportionately affect small entities. *See* SBA, *How to Comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act,* table 1 (Aug. 2017), available at: *https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/How-to-Comply-with-the-RFA.pdf.* The cost savings and regulatory flexibility from this proposed rule should reduce burdens on small entities, as with other operators, and PHMSA does not expect this proposed rule adversely to impact small entities. *See* DOT, *Rulemaking Requirements Concerning Small Entities* (May 18, 2012), available at: *https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/rulemaking-requirements-concerning-small-entities.* Moreover, use of the RBI approach that would be permitted by this rule remains elective by those small entities who choose it, and the rule does not impact an operator that does not wish to employ these procedures. Accordingly, a regulatory flexibility analysis was not prepared, though PHMSA is requesting comment on the certification.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA)

UMRA (2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*) requires agencies to assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and Tribal governments, as well as the private sector. UMRA establishes a statutory threshold requiring additional analysis for mandates on the private sector of $100 million or more in 1996 dollars ($203 million in 2024 dollars) in any given year. As explained further in the PRIA, PHMSA does not expect that the proposed rule will impose unfunded mandates under the UMRA.

F. National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requires that Federal agencies assess and consider the impacts of major Federal actions on the human and natural environment. PHMSA has prepared a draft environmental assessment (DEA) considering the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of the proposed rule. A copy is available in the docket for this rulemaking. PHMSA invites comments on the environmental impacts of this proposed rule. Following the public comment period, PHMSA will consider substantive comments before making a final determination. All comments received during this period will be addressed and included in the final NEPA document.

G. Executive Order 13175

PHMSA analyzed this proposed rule according to the principles and criteria in E.O. 13175 (*Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments;* 65 FR 67249 (Nov. 9, 2000)) and DOT Order 5301.1A (*Department of Transportation Tribal Consultation Policies and Procedures*), which require agencies to assure meaningful and timely input from Tribal government representatives when developing rules that significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities by imposing ''substantial direct compliance costs'' or ''substantial direct effects'' on such communities, or the relationship or distribution of power between the Federal Government and Tribes.

PHMSA assessed the impact of the proposed rule and does not expect it will affect Tribal communities or Indian Tribal governments significantly or uniquely, such that the consultation requirements of E.O. 13175 and DOT Order 5301.1A do not apply. The proposed rulemaking's regulatory amendments have a broad, national scope and should not affect Tribal communities significantly or uniquely, much less impose substantial compliance costs on Native American Tribal governments or mandate Tribal action. Further, consultation with stakeholders was made available under E.O. 12866.

H. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping requests. The following provisions of this rulemaking will result in minor changes to report forms and trigger recordkeeping requirements when an operator chooses to use RBI.

First, PHMSA proposes to revise the hazardous liquid pipeline annual report form (PHMSA Form F7000.1–1) to include a count of tanks managed under RBI. Second, PHMSA proposes to require the operator to identify if a breakout tank is managed under RBI when submitting geospatial information on breakout tanks to the National Pipeline Mapping System in accordance with § 195.61. Third, operators who elect to use an RBI would have to make and retain records documenting the risk assessment in accordance with the 5th edition of API Std 653.

PHMSA will submit information collection requests to OMB for approval based on the requirements in this rule. The following information is provided for each information collection request: (1) title of the information collection; (2) OMB control number; (3) current expiration date; (4) type of request; (5) abstract of the information collection activity; (6) description of affected public; (7) estimate of total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden; and (8) frequency of collection. Requests for a copy of these information collection requests should be directed to Angela Hill by email at *angela.hill@dot.gov.*

The information collection burden is estimated as follows:

1. *Title:* Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operator Annual Reports.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0614.

Current Expiration Date: 03/31/2026.

Type of Request: Revision.

Abstract: This mandatory information collection requires the operators to submit data on the preceding year electronically by June 15th of each

calendar year. This information is used by PHMSA to identify trends in hazardous liquid pipeline accidents and to identify operators who have poor safety records. PHMSA is revising the hazardous liquid pipeline annual report form (PHMSA Form F7000.1–1) to include a count of breakout tanks managed under RBI.

Affected Public: Owners and operators of hazardous liquid pipelines.

Annual Reporting Burden:

Total Annual Responses: 950.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 18,050.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

2. *Title:* National Pipeline Mapping Program.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0596.

Current Expiration Date: 3/31/2026.

Type of Request: Revision.

Abstract: The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–355), 49 U.S.C. 60132, ''National Pipeline Mapping System,'' requires, the operator of a pipeline facility (except distribution lines and gathering lines) to provide information to PHMSA. Each operator is required to submit geospatial data appropriate for use in the National Pipeline Mapping System or data in a format that can be converted to geospatial data; the name and address of the person with primary operational control (to be known as its operator); and a means for a member of the public to contact the operator for additional information about the pipeline facilities it operates. This revision will require operators to identify if a breakout tank is managed under RBI when submitting geospatial information on breakout tanks to the National Pipeline Mapping System in accordance with § 195.61. The new data elements will strengthen the effectiveness of PHMSA's risk rankings and evaluations, which are used as a factor in determining pipeline inspection priority and frequency; allow for more effective assistance to emergency responders by providing them with a more reliable, complete data set of pipelines and facilities; and provide better support to PHMSA's inspectors by supplying more accurate pipeline locations and additional pipeline-related geospatial data that can be linked to tabular data in PHMSA's inspection database.

Affected Public: Owners and operators of gas transmission pipeline systems.

Annual Reporting Burden:

Total Annual Responses: 1,346.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 162,208.

Frequency of Collection: Annual.

3. *Title:* Transportation of Hazardous Liquids by Pipeline: Record keeping and Accident Reporting.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0047.

Current Expiration Date: 04/30/2026.

Type of Request: Revision.

Abstract: This mandatory information collection covers the recordkeeping requirements and the collection of accident data from operators of hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines. Part 195 requires hazardous liquid operators to file an accident report as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after discovery of the accident on form ''PHMSA F 7000–1'' whenever there is a reportable accident. § 195.52 requires operators of hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipeline systems to make immediate telephonic or online notice to the National Response Center (NRC) in the event of a reportable accident. PHMSA proposes to require operators who elect to use an RBI to make and retain records documenting the risk assessment in accordance with the 5th edition of API Std 653. PHMSA estimates that operators of 211 breakout tanks will elect to use RBI procedures, with operators needing approximately 480 hours to develop a plan for each tank. The 5th edition of API Std 653 requires operators to review and approve these plans at least once every 10 years, or when warranted by process, equipment, or consequence changes. PHMSA estimates that three operators per year will spend one hour reviewing RBI plans. Accordingly, PHMSA is revising the recordkeeping burden of this information collection to account for this added burden.

Affected Public: Operators of hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipeline facilities.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Estimated number of responses: 1,860.

Estimated annual burden hours: 155,060 hours.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Comments on these information collections are invited on: (a) the need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency; (b) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (c) ways to minimize the burden of information collection on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques; and (d) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the revised collection of information. Send comments to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Desk Officer for the Department of Transportation, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Submitted comments on or before August 3, 2026.

I. Executive Order 13609 and International Trade Analysis

E.O. 13609 (*Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation;* 77 FR 26413 (May 4, 2012)) requires agencies to consider whether the impacts associated with significant variations between domestic and international regulatory approaches are unnecessary or may impair the ability of American business to export and compete internationally. Similarly, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–39, as amended by Pub. L. 103–465), prohibits Federal agencies from establishing any standards or engaging in related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards. While PHMSA engages with international standards setting bodies to protect the safety of the American public, PHMSA has determined that the proposed regulatory amendments will not cause unnecessary obstacles to foreign trade.

J. Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14028

E.O. 14028 (*Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity;* 86 FR 26633 (May 17, 2021)) directs the Federal Government to improve its efforts to identify, deter, and respond to ''persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns.'' PHMSA has considered the effects of the proposed rule and expects that its regulatory amendments would not affect materially the cybersecurity risk profile for pipeline facilities or require pipeline operators to generate new security-sensitive records. This rule provides an additional option that pipeline operators may choose to schedule internal inspections for breakout tanks. Ultimately operators can adopt or decline this option. It is highly likely that operators electing it are already familiar with operation and maintenance plan requirements and have evaluated their cybersecurity risks.

Further, operators are encouraged to consult ongoing efforts by the Transportation Security Administration to strengthen cybersecurity and resiliency in the pipeline sector, and review cybersecurity guidance for pipeline operators issued by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency and the Pipeline Cybersecurity Initiative, which conduct ongoing activities to address cybersecurity risks

to U.S. pipeline infrastructure. This guidance is available at *www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts.*

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 195

Energy, Incorporation by reference, Petroleum, Pipeline Safety.

In consideration of the foregoing, PHMSA proposes to amend 49 CFR part 195 as follows:

PART 195—TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS BY PIPELINE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 195 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 185(w)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60101 *et seq.,* and 49 CFR 1.97.

■ 2. In § 195.3 republish the introductory text of paragraph (b) and revise paragraph (b)(18) to read as follows:

§ 195.3 What documents are incorporated by reference partly or wholly in this part?

* * * * *

(b) American Petroleum Institute (API), 200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20001–5571; phone: 202–682–8000; website: *www.api.org/.*

* * * * *

(18) API Standard 653, Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction, 5th edition, November 2014, (including addendum 1 (April 2018), addendum 2 (May 2020), addendum 3 (November 2023), errata 1 (March 2020), errata 2 (February 2025), and addendum 4 (July 2025), (API Std 653); IBR approved for §§ 195.205(b), 195.307(d), and 195.432(b).

* * * * *

§ 195.205 [AMENDED].

■ 3. Amend § 195.205(b)(1) by removing the phrase ''(except section 6.4.3)''.

■ 4. Revise § 195.432(b) to read as follows:

§ 195.432 Inspection of in-service breakout tanks.

* * * * *

(b) Each operator must inspect the physical integrity of in-service atmospheric and low-pressure steel above-ground breakout tanks according to API Std 653 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 195.3). In order to use Risk Based Inspection (RBI) procedures in API Std 653, the operator must make and retain records for all of the likelihood and consequence factors listed in section 6.4.2.2.2.1 and 6.4.2.2.2.2 of API Std 653 and other data used in the RBI assessment. The internal inspection intervals established under 6.4.2 of API Std 653 may not exceed 20 years for the initial inspection and 25 years for subsequent internal inspections. If structural conditions prevent access to the tank bottom, its integrity may be assessed according to a plan included in the operations and maintenance manual under § 195.402(c)(3).

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 29, 2026 under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Linda Daugherty,

Acting Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 2026–10969 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 105
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding: whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by July 2, 2026 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Title: Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

OMB Control Number: 0524–0044.

Summary of Collection: The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a Federal Extension (community outreach) program that currently operates through 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Universities in every state, the District of Columbia, and the six U.S. territories. The program uses education to support participants' efforts towards self-sufficiency, nutritional health, and well-being. EFNEP combines hands-on learning, applied science, and program data to ensure program effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. The evaluation processes of EFNEP remain consistent with the requirements of Congressional legislation and OMB and supports the reporting requirements requested in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) (Pub. L. 103–62), the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act) (Pub. L. 105–270), and the Agricultural, Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 AREERA) (Pub. L. 105–185).

Need and Use of the Information: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will collect information using Web-Based Nutrition Education Evaluation and Reporting System (WebNEERS), which is an integrated database system that stores information on: (1) programmatic results: (A) adult program participants, their family structure and dietary practices; (B) youth group participants; and (C) staff; and (2) programmatic plans (D) annual budget; and (E) annual program plans. NIFA would be unable to compare, assess, and analyze the effectiveness and the impact of EFNEP without the annual collection of data.

Description of Respondents: State, local or Tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 76.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 18,772.

Rachelle Ragland-Greene,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–10994 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–09–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) has received requests to conduct administrative reviews of various antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) orders with April anniversary dates. In accordance with Commerce's regulations, we are initiating those administrative reviews.

DATES: Applicable June 2, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda E. Brown, AD/CVD Operations, Customs Liaison Unit, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4735.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Commerce has received timely requests, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b), for administrative reviews of various AD and CVD orders with April anniversary dates. All deadlines for the submission of various types of information, certifications, comments, or actions by Commerce discussed below refer to the number of calendar days from the applicable starting time.

Respondent Selection

In the event that Commerce limits the number of respondents for individual examination for administrative reviews initiated pursuant to requests made for the orders identified below, Commerce intends to select respondents based either on U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data for U.S. imports during the period of review (POR) or questionnaires in which we request the quantity and value (Q&V) of sales, shipments, or exports during the POR. Where Commerce selects respondents based on CBP data, we intend to place the CBP data on the record within five days of publication of the initiation notice. Where Commerce selects respondents based on Q&V data, Commerce intends to place the Q&V

questionnaire on the record of the review within five days of publication of the initiation notice. In either case, we intend to make our respondent selection decision within 35 days of the **Federal Register** publication of the initiation notice. Comments regarding the CBP data (and/or Q&V data (where applicable)) and respondent selection should be submitted within seven days after the placement of the CBP data/submission of the Q&V data on the record of the review. Parties wishing to submit rebuttal comments should submit those comments within five days after the deadline for the initial comments.

In the event that Commerce decides it is necessary to limit individual examination of respondents and conduct respondent selection under section 777A(c)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the following guidelines regarding collapsing of companies for purposes of respondent selection will apply. In general, Commerce has found that determinations concerning whether particular companies should be ''collapsed'' (*e.g.,* treated as a single entity for purposes of calculating AD rates) require a substantial amount of detailed information and analysis, which often require follow-up questions and analysis. Accordingly, Commerce will not conduct collapsing analyses at the respondent selection phase of the review and will not collapse companies at the respondent selection phase unless there has been a determination to collapse certain companies in a previous segment of the AD proceeding (*e.g.,* investigation, administrative review, new shipper review, or changed circumstances review). For any company subject to the review, if Commerce determined, or continued to treat, that company as collapsed with others, Commerce will assume that such companies continue to operate in the same manner and will collapse them for respondent selection purposes. Otherwise, Commerce will not collapse companies for purposes of respondent selection.

Parties are requested to: (a) identify which companies subject to review previously were collapsed, and (b) provide a citation to the proceeding in which they were collapsed. Further, if companies are requested to complete the Q&V questionnaire for purposes of respondent selection, in general, each company must report volume and value data separately for itself. Parties should not include data for any other party, even if they believe they should be treated as a single entity with that other party. If a company was collapsed with another company or companies in the most recently completed segment of the proceeding where Commerce considered collapsing that entity, complete Q&V data for that collapsed entity must be submitted.

Notice of No Sales

With respect to AD administrative reviews, we intend to rescind the review where there are no suspended entries for a company or entity under review and/or where there are no suspended entries under the company-specific case number for that company or entity. Where there may be suspended entries, if a producer or exporter named in this notice of initiation had no exports, sales, or entries during the POR, it may notify Commerce of this fact within 30 days of publication of this initiation notice in the **Federal Register** for Commerce to consider how to treat suspended entries under that producer's or exporter's company-specific case number.

Deadline for Withdrawal of Request for Administrative Review

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(1), a party that has requested a review may withdraw that request within 90 days of the date of publication of the notice of initiation of the requested review. The regulation provides that Commerce may extend this time if it is reasonable to do so. Determinations by Commerce to extend the 90-day deadline will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Deadline for Particular Market Situation Allegation

Section 504 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 amended the Act by adding the concept of a particular market situation (PMS) for purposes of constructed value under section 773(e) of the Act.[1] Section 773(e) of the Act states that ''if a particular market situation exists such that the cost of materials and fabrication or other processing of any kind does not accurately reflect the cost of production in the ordinary course of trade, the administering authority may use another calculation methodology under this subtitle or any other calculation methodology.'' When an interested party submits a PMS allegation pursuant to section 773(e) of the Act, Commerce will respond to such a submission consistent with 19 CFR 351.301(c)(2)(v). If Commerce finds that a PMS exists under section 773(e) of the Act, then it will modify its dumping calculations appropriately.

Neither section 773(e) of the Act nor 19 CFR 351.301(c)(2)(v) set a deadline for the submission of PMS allegations and supporting factual information. However, in order to administer section 773(e) of the Act, Commerce must receive PMS allegations and supporting factual information with enough time to consider the submission. Thus, should an interested party wish to submit a PMS allegation and supporting new factual information pursuant to section 773(e) of the Act, it must do so no later than 20 days after submission of initial responses to section D of the questionnaire.

Separate Rates

In proceedings involving non-market economy (NME) countries, Commerce begins with a rebuttable presumption that all companies within the country are subject to government control and, thus, should be assigned a single AD deposit rate. It is Commerce's policy to assign all exporters of merchandise subject to an administrative review in an NME country this single rate unless an exporter can demonstrate that it is sufficiently independent so as to be entitled to a separate rate.

To establish whether a firm is sufficiently independent from government control of its export activities to be entitled to a separate rate, Commerce analyzes each entity exporting the subject merchandise. In accordance with the separate rates criteria, Commerce assigns separate rates to companies in NME cases only if respondents can demonstrate the absence of both *de jure* and *de facto* government control over export activities.

All firms listed below that wish to qualify for separate rate status in the administrative reviews involving NME countries must complete, as appropriate, either a Separate Rate Application or Certification, as described below. In addition, all firms that wish to qualify for separate rate status in the administrative reviews of AD orders in which a Q&V questionnaire is issued must complete, as appropriate, either a Separate Rate Application or Certification, and respond to the Q&V questionnaire.

For these administrative reviews, in order to demonstrate separate rate eligibility, Commerce requires entities for whom a review was requested, that were assigned a separate rate in the most recent segment of this proceeding in which they participated, to certify that they continue to meet the criteria for obtaining a separate rate. The

[1] *See* Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, Public Law 114–27, 129 Stat. 362 (2015).

Separate Rate Certification form will be available on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/non-market-economy-separate-rate-applications-and-certifications* on the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice. In responding to the certification, please follow the ''Instructions for Filing the Certification'' in the Separate Rate Certification. Separate Rate Certifications are due to Commerce no later than 14 calendar days after publication of this **Federal Register** notice. In addition to filing a Separate Rate Certification with Commerce no later than 14 calendar days after publication of this **Federal Register** notice. The deadline and requirement for submitting a Separate Rate Certification applies equally to NME-owned firms, wholly foreign-owned firms, and foreign sellers who purchase and export subject merchandise to the United States.

Entities that currently do not have a separate rate from a completed segment of the proceeding [2] should timely file a Separate Rate Application to demonstrate eligibility for a separate rate in this proceeding. In addition, companies that received a separate rate in a completed segment of the proceeding that have subsequently made changes, including, but not limited to, changes to corporate structure, acquisitions of new companies or facilities, or changes to their official company name,[3] should timely file a Separate Rate Application to demonstrate eligibility for a separate rate in this proceeding. The Separate Rate Application will be available on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/non-market-economy-separate-rate-applications-and-certifications* on the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice. In responding to the Separate Rate Application, refer to the instructions contained in the application. Separate Rate Applications are due to Commerce no later than 14 calendar days after publication of this **Federal Register** notice. The deadline and requirement for submitting a Separate Rate Application applies equally to NME-owned firms, wholly foreign-owned firms, and foreign sellers that purchase and export subject merchandise to the United States.

Exporters and producers must file a timely Separate Rate Application or Certification if they want to be considered for individual examination. Furthermore, exporters and producers who submit a Separate Rate Application or Certification and subsequently are selected as mandatory respondents will no longer be eligible for separate rate status unless they respond to all parts of the questionnaire as mandatory respondents.

Certification Eligibility

Commerce may establish a certification process for companies whose exports to the United States could contain both subject and non-subject merchandise. Companies under review that were deemed to not be eligible to participate in the certification program of that proceeding may submit a Certification Eligibility Application to establish that they maintain the necessary systems to track their sales to the United States of subject and non-subject goods.

All firms listed below that are not currently eligible to certify but wish to establish certification eligibility are required to submit a Certification Eligibility Application. The Certification Eligibility Application will be available on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/Certification-Eligibility-Application.pdf?v=1777492320626.* Certification Eligibility Applications must be filed according to Commerce's regulations and are due to Commerce no later than 30 calendar days after the publication of the **Federal Register** notice.

Exporters and producers that are not currently eligible to certify, who submit a Certification Eligibility Application, and are subsequently selected as mandatory respondents must respond to all parts of the questionnaire as mandatory respondents for Commerce to consider their Certification Eligibility Application.

Initiation of Reviews

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i), we are initiating administrative reviews of the following AD and CVD orders and findings. We intend to issue the final results of these reviews not later than April 30, 2027.

	Period to be reviewed
AD Proceedings	
BAHRAIN: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–525–001	4/1/25–3/31/26
Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill B.S.C.	
BRAZIL: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–351–854	4/1/24–3/31/25
CBA—Central and Sales Office	
CBA Itapissuma	
Companhia Brasileira de Alumínio	
Novelis do Brasil Ltda.	
CROATIA: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–891–001	4/1/25–3/31/26
Impol d.o.o.	
Impol-TLM, d.o.o.	
EGYPT: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–729–803	4/1/25–3/31/26
Aluminium Company of Egypt (Egyptalum)	
GERMANY: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–428–849	4/1/25–3/31/26
Alanod GmbH & Co. KG	
Constellium Singen GmbH	
Novelis Deutschland GmbH	
Speira GmbH	

[2] Such entities include entities that have not participated in the proceeding, entities that were preliminarily granted a separate rate in any currently incomplete segment of the proceeding (*e.g.,* an ongoing administrative review, new shipper review, *etc.*) and entities that lost their separate rate in the most recently completed segment of the proceeding in which they participated.

[3] Only changes to the official company name, rather than trade names, need to be addressed via a Separate Rate Application. Information regarding new trade names may be submitted via a Separate Rate Certification.

[4] In past reviews, Commerce has treated these companies as a single entity. *See, e.g., Certain Activated Carbon from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; and Final Determination of No Shipments; 2020–2021,* 87 FR 67671 (November 9, 2022). Commerce also received a review request for Jacobi Carbons, Inc., however, because Jacobi Carbons, Inc. is a U.S. affiliate of Jacobi Carbons AB., it is not listed in this notice.

	Period to be reviewed
INDIA: Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod, A–533–887	4/1/25–3/31/26
Aadi Shree Fastener Industries	
Babu Exports	
Concept Fasteners	
Goodgood Manufacturers	
J.D. Fasteners	
Kapson India	
Kanika Fasteners Private Limited/Kanika Exports	
Maharaja International	
Mangal Steel Enterprise Limited	
RK Fasteners	
Shree Laxmi Fasteners	
INDIA: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–533–895	4/1/25–3/31/26
Hindalco Industries Limited	
Jindal Aluminum Limited	
Virgo Aluminum Limited	
INDONESIA: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–560–835	4/1/25–3/31/26
PT. Alumindo Light Metal Industry, Tbk.	
PT. Starmas Inti Aluminum Industry	
ITALY: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–475–842	4/1/25–3/31/26
Novelis Italia SpA	
Profilglass SpA	
OMAN: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–523–814	4/1/25–3/31/26
Oman Aluminium Rolling Company SPC	
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–489–839	4/1/25–3/31/26
ASAS Alüminyum Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş	
Assan Aluminyum Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş.	
Kibar Dis Ticaret A.S	
Teknik Aluminyum Sanayi A.S.	
SERBIA: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–801–001	4/1/25–3/31/26
Impol d.o.o.	
Impol Seval, A.D.	
Otovici d.o.o.	
SLOVENIA: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–856–001	4/1/25–3/31/26
Impol d.o.o; Impol FT d.o.o; Impol Servis; Impol 2000	
SOUTH AFRICA: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–791–825	4/1/25–3/31/26
Hulamin Operations Proprietary Limited	
SPAIN: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–469–820	4/1/25–3/31/26
Compania Valenciana de Aluminio Baux, S.L.U.; Bancolor Baux, S.L.U.; Jupiter Aluminum Corp.	
Aludium Transformación de Productos, S.L.	
TAIWAN: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, A–583–867	4/1/25–3/31/26
C. S. Aluminium Corporation	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane (R–134a), A–570–044	4/1/25–3/31/26
Hangzhou JM Chemical Co., Ltd.	
ICOOL Chemical Co., Ltd.	
Quzhou Rongqiang Chem Co., Ltd.	
Zhejiang Sanmei Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.; Jiangsu Sanmei Chemicals Co., Ltd.; Fujian Qingliu Dongying Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd.	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Activated Carbon, A–570–904	4/1/25–3/31/26
Beijing Pacific Activated Carbon Products Co., Ltd.	
Bengbu Modern Environmental Co. Ltd.	
Carbon Activated Tianjin Co., Ltd.	
Datong Hongdi Carbon Co., Ltd.	
Datong Juqiang Activated Carbon Co., Ltd.	
Datong Municipal Yunguang Activated Carbon Co.	
Jacobi Carbons AB; Tianjin Jacobi International Trading Co. Ltd; Jacobi Carbons Industry (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.; Jacobi Adsorbent Materials (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.[4]	
Jacobi Carbons Tianjin International Trade Co., Ltd.	
Jilin Bright Future Chemicals Company, Ltd.	
Ningxia Guanghua Cherishmet Activated Carbon Co., Ltd.	
Ningxia Huahui Environmental Technology Co., Ltd.	
Ningxia Mineral & Chemical Ltd.	
Shanxi Dapu International Trade Co., Ltd.	
Shanxi DMD Corp.	
Shanxi Industry Technology Trading Co., Ltd.	
Shanxi Sincere Industrial Co., Ltd.	
Shanxi Tianxi Purification Filter Co., Ltd.	
Sinoacarbon International Trading Co., Ltd.	
Tancarb Activated Carbon Co., Ltd.	
Tianjin Channel Filters Co., Ltd.	
Tianjin Maijin Industries Co., Ltd.	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Alloy and Certain Carbon Steel Threaded Rod, A–570–104	4/1/25–3/31/26
EC International (Nantong) Co., Ltd.	

	Period to be reviewed
Ningbo Dongxin High-Strength Nut	
Ningbo Jin Mei Gloves Factory	
Ningbo Zhongjiang High Strength Bolts Co., Ltd.	
Ningbo Dingtuo Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd.	
Ningbo Jinding Fastening Piece Co., Ltd.	
Zhejiang Junyue Standard Parts Co., Ltd.	
Ningbo Zhenghai Yongding Fastener	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Certain Aluminum Foil,[5]	4/1/25–3/31/26
Anhui Zhongji Battery Foil Science & Technology Co., Ltd.	
Dingheng New Materials Co., Ltd.	
Dingsheng Aluminum Industries (Hong Kong) Trading Co., Ltd.	
Dongwon Systems Corp.	
Dong-IL Aluminium Co., Ltd.	
Eastern Valley Co., Ltd.	
Gränges Aluminum (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Dingsheng Import & Export Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Five Star Aluminum Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Teemful Aluminium Co., Ltd.	
Inner Mongolia Liansheng New Energy Material Co., Ltd.	
Inner Mongolia Xinxing New Energy Material Co., Ltd.	
Jiangsu Dingsheng New Materials Joint-Stock Co., Ltd.	
Jiangsu Huafeng Aluminum Industry Co., Ltd.	
Jiangsu Zhongji Lamination Materials Co., Ltd.	
Jiangsu Zhongji Lamination Materials Co., (HK) Limited	
Korea Aluminium Co., Ltd.	
Lotte Aluminium Co., Ltd.	
Sama Aluminium Co., Ltd.	
Shanghai Shenhuo Aluminium Foil Co., Ltd.	
Shanghai Shenyan Packaging Materials Co., Ltd.	
Xiamen Xiashun Aluminium Foil Co., Ltd.	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Mobile Access Equipment and Subassemblies Thereof, A–570–139	4/1/25–3/31/26
Aichi Worldwide	
Anhui Heli Industrial Vehicle Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd	
Changzhou Hengxuan Logistics Co., Ltd.	
Crown Equipment (Suzhou) Co., Ltd.	
Deqing Liguan Machinery Trading Co. Ltd.	
Dongguan Tinbo Packing Industrial Co., Ltd.	
Everocean International Forwarding Co., Ltd.	
Fujiang Jingong Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Gaim Regiomontana SA DE CV	
Global Machiner Group Inc.	
Green Power Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Guangdong Machinery Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd.	
Guangxi LiuGong Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Guangzhou Eounice Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Hengli Metal Processing Co., Ltd.	
Henan Global Heavy Industry Technology Co., Ltd.	
Hunan Sinoboom Intelligent Equipment Co., Ltd.	
Jiaxing Xinfeng Zhong Wang Hydrualic Pressure Accessory Factory	
Jinan Zhongtang Mechanical Equipment	
Jinan Zhongtian International Trading	
Leader Technology Co., Ltd	
LGMG De Mexico S.A. De C.V	
Lingong Group Jinan Heavy Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Lingong Heavy Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Linyi Lingong Machinery Group Co., Ltd.	
Mantall Heavy Industry Co., Ltd.	
Noblelift Intelligent Equipment Co., Ltd.	
Oshkosh JLG (Tianjin) Equipment Technology Co., Ltd.	
Sany Marine Heavy Industry Co., Ltd.	
Shandong Huifeng Auto Fittings	
Shandong Lede Machinery	
Shandong Tavol Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Shanghai Full Trans Global Forwarding Co., Ltd.	
Shanghai Inter Cooperation Co., Ltd.	
Shanghai Xiangcheng Trading Co., Ltd.	
Shanghai Xindun Trade Co., Ltd.	
Shengda Fenghe Automotive Equipment Co., Ltd.	
Shenzhen Shining Ocean International Logistics Co., Ltd.	
Skyjack Inc	
Skyjack Mexico S. DE R.L. DE C.V.	
Sunward Intelligent Equipment Co., Ltd.	
Terex (Changzhou) Machinery Co., Ltd.	

	Period to be reviewed
Terex Global GMBH	
Toyota Material Handling Group	
Wuhai Huadong Heavy Industry Foundry Co., Ltd.	
Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group	
Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group Fire-Fighting Safety Equipment Co., Ltd.	
Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd.	
Yantai Carhart Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	
Yantai Empire Industry and Trade	
Zhejiang Dingli Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Zhejiang Smile Tools Co., Ltd.	
Zhongshan Shiliwang Machinery Co., LTD	
Zoomlion Heavy Industry Science & Technology Co., Ltd.	
Zoomlion Intelligent Access Machinery Co., Ltd.	
Zoomlion Intelligent Access Machinery Singapore Pte. Ltd.	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Wooden Cabinets and Vanities and Components Thereof, A–570–106	4/1/25–3/31/26
Foshan Longtime Home LLC	
Goldenhome Living Co., Ltd.	
KM Cabinetry Co., Ltd.	
Taishan Oversea Trading Company Ltd.	
Xiamen Golden Huanan Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd.	
Zhongshan NU Furniture Co., Ltd.	
CVD Proceedings	
BAHRAIN: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet C–525–002	1/1/25–12/31/25
Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill B.S.C.	
INDIA: Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod, C–533–888	1/1/25–12/31/25
Aadi Shree Fastener Industries	
Babu Exports	
Bee Dee Cycle Industries of India	
Concept Fasteners	
Daksh Fasteners	
Goodgood Manufacturers	
J.D. Fasteners	
Kapson India	
Kanika Fasteners Private Limited/Kanika Exports	
Maharaja International	
Mangal Steel Enterprise Limited	
Nishant Steel Industries	
RK Fasteners	
Shree Laxmi Fasteners	
INDIA: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, C–533–896	1/1/25–12/31/25
Hindalco Industries Limited	
Jindal Aluminum Limited	
Manaksia Aluminium Company Limited	
Virgo Aluminum Limited	
INDIA: Off-The-Road Tires, C–533–870	1/1/25–12/31/25
Aakriti Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.	
Ace Ventura Tyres and Tracks	
Ammann India Private Limited	
Apollo Tyres Ltd.	
Asha Rubber Industries	
Asian Tire Factory Ltd.	
Asiatic Tradelinks Private Limited	
Balkrishna Industries Ltd.	
Braza Tyres Pvt Ltd	
Carrier Wheels Private Limited	
Cavendish Industries Ltd.	
Ceat Ltd.	
Celite Tyre Corporation	
Emerald Resilient Tyre Manufacturer	
Faucon Industries	
Forech India Private Limited	
HRI Tires India	
Innovative Tyres & Tubes Limited	
JK Tyre & Industries Ltd.	
John Deere India Pvt. Ltd.	
K.R.M. Tyres	
MRF Limited	
MRL Tyres Limited (Malhotra Rubbers Ltd.)	
Neosym Industry Limited	
OTR Laminated Tyres (I) Pvt. Ltd.	
Ralson Tyres Limited	
Royal Tyres Private Limited	

	Period to be reviewed
Rubberman Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	
Speedways Rubber Company	
Sun Tyre And Wheel Systems	
Sundaram Industries Private Limited	
Superking Manufacturers (Tyre) Pvt., Ltd.	
TOT Tyres Private Limited	
Trident International Pvt. Ltd.	
MOROCCO: Phosphate Fertilizers, C–714–001	1/1/25–12/31/25
OCP S.A; Jorf Fertilizers Company I; Jorf Fertilizers Company II; Jorf Fertilizers Company III; Jorf Fertilizers Company IV; Jorf Fertilizers Company V; OCP Nutricrops SA; Maroc Phosphore [6]	
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE: Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet, C–489–840	1/1/25–12/31/25
ASAS Alüminyum Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş	
Assan Aluminyum Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S.,	
Kibar Dis Ticaret A.S	
Teknik Aluminyum Sanayi A.S.	
RUSSIA: Phosphate Fertilizers, C–821–825	1/1/25–12/31/25
Industrial Group Phosphorite LLC; Mineral and Chemical Company EuroChem, JSC; NAK Azot, JSC; EuroChem Northwest, JSC; Joint Stock Company Kovdorksy GOK; EuroChem-Energo, LLC; EuroChem-Usolsky Potash Complex, LLC; EuroChem-BMU, LLC; JSC Nevinnomyssky Azot; EuroChem Trading Rus, LLC [7]	
Joint Stock Company Apatit; PhosAgro PJSC; PhosAgro-Belgorod LLC; PhosAgro-Don LLC; PhosAgro-Kuban LLC; PhosAgro-Kursk LLC; PhosAgro-Lipetsk LLC; PhosAgro-Orel LLC; PhosAgro-Stavropol LLC; PhosAgro-Volga LLC; PhosAgro SeveroZapad LLC; PhosAgro-Tambov LLC; Martynovsk AgrokhimSnab LLC [8]	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod, C–570–105	1/1/25–12/31/25
EC International (Nantong) Co., Ltd.	
Ningbo Dongxin High-Strength Nut	
Ningbo Jin Mei Gloves Factory	
Ningbo Zhongjiang High Strength Bolts Co., Ltd.	
Ningbo Dingtuo Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd.	
Ningbo Jinding Fastening Piece Co., Ltd.	
Zhejiang Junyue Standard Parts Co Ltd.	
Ningbo Zhenghai Yongding Fastener	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Certain Aluminum Foil, C–570–054	1/1/25–12/31/25
Dingsheng Aluminium Industries (Hong Kong) Trading Co., Limited	
Dingheng New Materials Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou DingCheng Aluminum Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Dingsheng Import & Export Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Dingsheng Industrial Group Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Five Star Aluminium Co., Ltd.	
Hangzhou Teemful Aluminium Co., Ltd.	
Inner Mongolia Liansheng New Energy Material Co., Ltd.	
Inner Mongolia Liansheng New Energy Material Joint-Stock Co., Ltd.	
Inner Mongolia Xinxing New Material Co.	
Inner Mongolia Xinxing New Energy Material Co., Ltd.	
Jiangsu Dingsheng New Materials Joint-Stock Co., Ltd	
Prosvic Sales, Inc.	
Thai Ding Li New Materials Co, Ltd.	
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Wooden Cabinets and Vanities and Components Thereof, C–570–107	1/1/25–12/31/25
Goldenhome Living Co., Ltd.	
KM Cabinetry Co., Ltd.	
Taishan Oversea Trading Company Ltd.	
Xiamen Golden Huanan Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd.Zhongshan Nu Furniture Co., Ltd.	

Suspension Agreements

None.

[5] Commerce inadvertently omitted the companies listed below from the list of companies subject to the review of this order in the initiation notice for April anniversary months. *See Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews,* 85 FR 23941 (May 4, 2026).

[6] In past proceedings, Commerce has found these companies to be cross-owned. *See Phosphate Fertilizers from the Kingdom of Morocco and the Russian Federation: Countervailing Duty Orders,* 86 FR 18037, 18038 (April 7, 2021) (*Fertilizers CVD Order*); *see also Phosphate Fertilizers from the Kingdom of Morocco: Notice of Amended Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review; 2022,* 89 FR 104979 (December 26, 2024). Absent information to the contrary, we intend to continue to treat these entities as cross-owned for the purpose of this administrative review.

[7] In past proceedings, Commerce has found these companies to be cross-owned. *See Fertilizers CVD Order,* 86 FR at 18038. Absent information to the contrary, we intend to continue to treat these entities as cross-owned for the purpose of this administrative review.

[8] In past proceedings, Commerce has found these companies to be cross-owned. *See Fertilizers CVD Order,* 86 FR at 18038. Absent information to the contrary, we intend to continue to treat these entities as cross-owned for the purpose of this administrative review.

Duty Absorption Reviews

During any administrative review covering all or part of a period falling between the first and second or third and fourth anniversary of the publication of an AD order under 19 CFR 351.211 or a determination under 19 CFR 351.218(f)(4) to continue an order or suspended investigation (after sunset review), Commerce, if requested by a domestic interested party within 30 days of the date of publication of the notice of initiation of the review, will determine whether antidumping duties have been absorbed by an exporter or producer subject to the review if the subject merchandise is sold in the United States through an importer that is affiliated with such exporter or producer. The request must include the

name(s) of the exporter or producer for which the inquiry is requested.

Gap Period Liquidation

For the first administrative review of any order, there will be no assessment of antidumping or countervailing duties on entries of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption during the relevant ''gap'' period of the order (*i.e.,* the period following the expiry of provisional measures and before definitive measures were put into place), if such a gap period is applicable to the POR.

Administrative Protective Orders and Letters of Appearance

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective orders in accordance with the procedures outlined in Commerce's regulations at 19 CFR 351.305. Those procedures apply to administrative reviews included in this notice of initiation. Parties wishing to participate in any of these administrative reviews should ensure that they meet the requirements of these procedures (*e.g.,* the filing of separate letters of appearance as discussed at 19 CFR 351.103(d)).

Factual Information Requirements

Commerce's regulations identify five categories of factual information in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21), which are summarized as follows: (i) evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by Commerce; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)–(iv). These regulations require any party, when submitting factual information, to specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct. The regulations, at 19 CFR 351.301, also provide specific time limits for such factual submissions based on the type of factual information being submitted. Please review the *Final Rule,*[9] available at *https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2013-07-17/pdf/2013-17045.pdf,* prior to submitting factual information in this segment. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).[10]

Any party submitting factual information in an AD or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information using the formats provided at the end of the *Final Rule.*[11] Commerce intends to reject factual submissions in any proceeding segments if the submitting party does not comply with applicable certification requirements.

Extension of Time Limits Regulation

Parties may request an extension of time limits before a time limit established under Part 351 expires, or as otherwise specified by Commerce.[12] In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the time limit established under Part 351 expires. For submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. on the due date. Examples include, but are not limited to: (1) case and rebuttal briefs, filed pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309; (2) factual information to value factors under 19 CFR 351.408(c), or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2), filed pursuant to 19 CFR 351.301(c)(3) and rebuttal, clarification and correction filed pursuant to 19 CFR 351.301(c)(3)(iv); (3) comments concerning the selection of a surrogate country and surrogate values and rebuttal; (4) comments concerning CBP data; and (5) Q&V questionnaires. Under certain circumstances, Commerce may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, Commerce will inform parties in the letter or memorandum setting forth the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered timely. This policy also requires that an extension request must be made in a separate, standalone submission, and clarifies the circumstances under which Commerce will grant untimely-filed requests for the extension of time limits. Please review the *Final Rule,* available at *https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22853.htm,* prior to submitting factual information in these segments.

Notification to Interested Parties

These initiations and this notice are in accordance with section 751(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)) and 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i).

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Scot Fullerton,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

[FR Doc. 2026–10939 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

[9] *See Certification of Factual Information To Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,* 78 FR 42678 (July 17, 2013) (*Final Rule*); *see also* the frequently asked questions regarding the *Final Rule,* available at *https://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual_info_final_rule_FAQ_07172013.pdf.*

[10] *See Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings; Final Rule,* 88 FR 67069 (September 29, 2023).

[11] *See* section 782(b) of the Act; *see also Final Rule;* and the frequently asked questions regarding the *Final Rule,* available at *https://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual_info_final_rule_FAQ_07172013.pdf.*

[12] *See* 19 CFR 351.302.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–904]

Certain Activated Carbon From the People's Republic of China: Amended Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) is amending its final results of the administrative review of the antidumping duty (AD) order on certain activated carbon from the People's Republic of China (China) to correct ministerial errors. The period of review (POR), April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024.

DATES: Applicable June 2, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Hart or Nathan Araya, AD/CVD Operations, Office II, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–1058 or (202) 482–3401, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On April 23, 2026, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the final results of the 2023–2024 administrative review of the antidumping duty order on activated

carbon from China.[1] On May 6, 2026, we received timely submitted ministerial error allegations from Calgon Carbon Corporation and Norit Americas, Inc. (the petitioners), and the mandatory respondents, Datong Juqiang Activated Carbon Co., Ltd. (DJAC), and Ningxia Huahui Environmental Technology Co., Ltd. (Ningxia Huahui).[2] We received no other ministerial error comments from interested parties. Commerce is amending the *Final Results* to correct the ministerial errors.

Legal Framework

Section 751(h) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), defines a ''ministerial error'' as including ''errors in addition, subtraction, or other arithmetic function, clerical errors resulting from inaccurate copying, duplication, or the like, and any other unintentional error which the administering authority considers ministerial.'' [3] With respect to final results of administrative reviews, 19 CFR 351.224(e) provides that Commerce ''will analyze any comments received and, if appropriate, correct any . . . ministerial error by amending the final results of review . . .''

Ministerial Error

Commerce reviewed the record, and we agree that some of the errors alleged by the mandatory respondents constitute ministerial errors within the meaning of section 735(e) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act) and 19 CFR 351.224(f).[4] Specifically, with regard to DJAC, we find that we made inadvertent errors related to the exclusion of a by-product offset, the calculation of its electricity surrogate value, and the calculation of packing expenses.[5] With regards to Ningxia Huahui, we find that we inadvertently utilized both Malaysian imports and exports while calculating Ningxia Huahui's by-product average unit value and inadvertently mislabeled a unit of measure in its final surrogate value excel sheet.[6] Additionally, consistent with our adjustment to Century Chemicals Works Sedirian Berhad's (Century) selling, general and administrative expenses ratio, Commerce is adjusting Century's profit ratio by including the corresponding capped interest income figures.[7]

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.224(e), Commerce is amending the *Final Results* to reflect the correction of the ministerial errors, as described in the Ministerial Error Memorandum.[8] Based on the corrections, DJAC's final dumping margin remains unchanged at 0.00 dollars per kilogram and Ningxia Huahui's final dumping margin changed from 0.56 dollars per kilogram to 0.04 dollars per kilogram. As a result, we are also revising the rate assigned to the non-individually examined separate rate companies from 0.56 dollars per kilogram to 0.04 dollars per kilogram. The amended estimated weighted-average dumping margins are listed in the ''Amended Final Results'' section below.

For a complete discussion of the ministerial error allegation, as well as Commerce's analysis, see the accompanying Ministerial Error Memorandum.[9] The Ministerial Error Memorandum is on file electronically via ACCESS. ACCESS is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.*

Amended Final Results

As a result of correcting these ministerial errors described above, Commerce determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist for the period April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024:

Exporter	Weighted-average dumping margin (USD per kg) [10]
Datong Juqiang Activated Carbon Co., Ltd	0.00
Ningxia Huahui Environmental Technology Co., Ltd	0.04
Separate Rate Applicable For Non-Selected Companies Under Review [11]	0.04

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose the calculations performed in connection with these amended final results of review to interested parties within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Assessment Rates

Pursuant to section 751(a)(2)(A) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1), Commerce shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries of subject merchandise in accordance with the amended final results of this review. The amended final results of this review shall be the basis for the assessment of antidumping duties on entries of merchandise covered by the amended final results of this review and for future deposits of estimated duties, where applicable.[12]

Where an importer (or customer) specific *ad valorem* or per-unit rate is zero or de minimis, Commerce will instruct CBP to liquidate appropriate entries without regard to antidumping duties, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.106(c)(2). For Ningxia Huahui, Commerce will calculate importer-specific assessment rates for antidumping duties, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1)(ii). For entries that were not reported in the U.S. sales database by the exporter individually-examined during this review, Commerce will instruct CBP to liquidate such entries at the China-wide rate.[13] For the respondents that were not selected for individual examination in this administrative review but qualified for a separate rate, the per unit assessment rate will be the rate established for these companies in these amended final results of review.

For the six companies identified in the appendix to this notice as part of the China-wide entity, we will instruct CBP

[1] *See Certain Activated Carbon from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024,* 91 FR 21796 (April 23, 2026) (*Final Results*), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum (IDM).

[2] *See* Petitioners' Letter, ''Petitioners' Comments on Ministerial Errors in DJAC's Final Results Margin Calculations,'' dated May 6, 2026 (Petitioners' Ministerial Error Allegations); *see also* DJAC's Letter, ''DJAC's Ministerial Error Allegations,'' dated May 6, 2026 (DJAC's Ministerial Error Allegations); and Ningxia Huahui's Letter, ''Ministerial Error Allegations,'' dated May 6, 2026 (Ningxia Huahui's Ministerial Error Allegations).

[3] *See* 19 CFR 351.224(f).

[4] *See* Memorandum, ''Analysis of Ministerial Error Allegation,'' dated concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice (Ministerial Error Memorandum).

[5] *See* Memorandum, ''Analysis of Ministerial Error Allegations; 2023–2024,'' dated concurrently with this notice.

[6] *Id.* at 4.

[7] *Id.* at 4–5.

[8] *Id.*

[9] *Id.*

[10] In the second administrative review of the *Order,* Commerce determined that it would calculate per-unit weighted-average dumping margins and assessment amounts for all future reviews. *See Certain Activated Carbon from the People's Republic of China: Final Results and Partial Rescission of Second Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 75 FR 70208, 70211* (November 17, 2010).

[11] *See* Appendix.

[12] *See* section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act.

[13] For a full discussion of this practice, *see Non-Market Economy Antidumping Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties,* 76 FR 65694 (October 24, 2011).

to apply the China-wide per-unit assessment rate to all entries of subject merchandise made during the POR which were exported by those companies.

Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the amended final results of this review in the **Federal Register**. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.,* within 90 days of publication).

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following amended cash deposit requirements will be effective upon the publication of the *Final Results* of this review for shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) the amended cash deposit rate for DJAC and Ningxia Huahui and the other companies not individually examined in this review will be equal to the weighted-average dumping margin that is established in the amended final results of this review, except if the rate is less than 0.50 percent and, therefore, *de minimis* within the meaning of 19 CFR 351.106(c)(1), in which case the cash deposit rate will be zero; (2) for previously investigated or reviewed Chinese and non-Chinese exporters not listed above or in Appendix I that received a separate rate in a prior segment of this proceeding, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the existing exporter-specific rate published for the most recently completed segment of this proceeding; (3) for all Chinese exporters of subject merchandise that have not been found to be entitled to a separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the rate for the China-wide entity (*i.e.,* 2.42 USD/kg); and (4) for all non-Chinese exporters of subject merchandise that have not received their own separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the Chinese exporter that supplied that non-Chinese exporter. These deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a final reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

Administrative Protective Order

This notice serves as the final reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these amended final results of administrative review in accordance with sections 751(h) and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.224(e).

Dated: May 27, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

Non-Selected Companies Under Review Receiving a Separate Rate

1. Bengbu Modern Environmental Co., Ltd.
2. Carbon Activated Tianjin Co., Ltd.
3. Datong Hongdi Carbon Co., Ltd.
4. Datong Juqiang Activated Carbon Co., Ltd.
5. Datong Municipal Yunguang Activated Carbon Co., Ltd.
6. Jacobi Carbons AB; Jacobi Carbons Industry (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.; Tianjin Jacobi International Trading Co. Ltd.; Jacobi Adsorbent Materials
7. Ningxia Huahui Environmental Technology Co., Ltd.
8. Ningxia Mineral & Chemical Limited
9. Shanxi Industry Technology Trading Co., Ltd.
10. Shanxi Sincere Industrial Co., Ltd.
11. Tancarb Activated Carbon Co., Ltd.
12. Tianjin Channel Filters Co., Ltd.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity To Request Administrative Review and Join Annual Inquiry Service List; Note Regarding Format of Review Requests

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda E. Brown, AD/CVD Operations, Customs Liaison Unit, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230, telephone: (202) 482–4735.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Each year during the anniversary month of the publication of an antidumping duty (AD) or countervailing duty (CVD) order, finding, or suspended investigation, an interested party, as defined in section 771(9) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), may request, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213, that the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) conduct an administrative review of that AD or CVD order, finding, or suspended investigation.

All deadlines for the submission of comments or actions by Commerce discussed below refer to the number of calendar days from the applicable starting date.

Commerce asks that requests for review of multiple companies include an appendix listing, in alphabetical order, the company names for which a review is requested. *See infra* for additional details regarding this request.

Respondent Selection

In the event Commerce limits the number of respondents for individual examination for administrative reviews initiated pursuant to requests made for the orders identified below, Commerce intends to select respondents based on U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data for U.S. imports during the period of review (POR). We intend to release the CBP data under administrative protective order (APO) to all parties having an APO within five days of publication of the initiation notice and to make our decision regarding respondent selection within 35 days of publication of the initiation **Federal Register** notice. Therefore, we encourage all parties interested in

commenting on respondent selection to submit their APO applications on the date of publication of the initiation notice, or as soon thereafter as possible. Commerce invites comments regarding the CBP data and respondent selection within five days of placement of the CBP data on the record of the review.

In the event Commerce decides it is necessary to limit individual examination of respondents and conduct respondent selection under section 777A(c)(2) of the Act:

1. In general, Commerce finds that determinations concerning whether particular companies should be ''collapsed'' (*i.e.,* treated as a single entity for purposes of calculating AD rates) require a substantial amount of detailed information and analysis, which often require follow-up questions and analysis. Accordingly, Commerce will not conduct collapsing analyses at the respondent selection phase of a review and will not collapse companies at the respondent selection phase unless there has been a determination to collapse certain companies in a previous segment of this AD proceeding (*i.e.,* investigation, administrative review, new shipper review, or changed circumstances review).

2. For any company subject to a review, if Commerce determined, or continued to treat, that company as collapsed with others, Commerce will assume that such companies continue to operate in the same manner and will collapse them for respondent selection purposes. Otherwise, Commerce will not collapse companies for purposes of respondent selection.

3. Parties are requested to: (a) identify which companies subject to review previously were collapsed; and (b) provide a citation to the proceeding in which they were collapsed.

4. Further, if companies are requested to complete a Quantity and Value Questionnaire for purposes of respondent selection, in general, each company must report volume and value data separately for itself. Parties should not include data for any other party, even if they believe they should be treated as a single entity with that other party. If a company was collapsed with another company or companies in the most recently completed segment of a proceeding where Commerce considered collapsing that entity, complete quantity and value data for that collapsed entity must be submitted.

Deadline for Withdrawal of Request for Administrative Review

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(1), a party that requests a review may withdraw that request within 90 days of the date of publication of the notice of initiation of the requested review. The regulation provides that Commerce may extend this time if it is reasonable to do so. Determinations by Commerce to extend the 90-day deadline will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Deadline for Particular Market Situation Allegation

Section 504 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 amended the Act by adding the concept of particular market situation (PMS) for purposes of constructed value under section 773(e) of the Act.[1] Section 773(e) of the Act states that ''if a particular market situation exists such that the cost of materials and fabrication or other processing of any kind does not accurately reflect the cost of production in the ordinary course of trade, the administering authority may use another calculation methodology under this subtitle or any other calculation methodology.'' When an interested party submits a PMS allegation, pursuant to section 773(e) of the Act, Commerce will respond to such a submission consistent with 19 CFR 351.301(c)(2)(v). If Commerce finds that a PMS exists under section 773(e) of the Act, then it will modify its dumping calculations appropriately.

Neither section 773(e) of the Act nor 19 CFR 351.301(c)(2)(v) set a deadline for the submission of PMS allegations and supporting factual information. However, in order to administer section 773(e) of the Act, Commerce must receive PMS allegations and supporting factual information with enough time to consider the submission. Thus, should an interested party wish to submit a PMS allegation and supporting new factual information pursuant to section 773(e) of the Act, it must do so no later than 20 days after submission of initial Section D responses.

Opportunity to Request a Review: Not later than the last day of June 2026,[2] interested parties may request an administrative review of the following orders, findings, or suspended investigations, with anniversary dates in June for the following periods:

	Period
Antidumping Duty Proceedings	
ARGENTINA: Raw Honey A–357–823	6/1/25–5/31/26
BRAZIL:	
Brass Rod A–351–859	6/1/25–5/31/26
Raw Honey A–351–857	6/1/25–5/31/26
CAMBODIA: Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules C–555–003	6/13/25–5/31/26
GERMANY: Cold-Drawn Mechanical Tubing A–428–845	6/1/25–5/31/26
INDIA:	
Brass Rod A–533–915	6/1/25–5/31/26
Certain Non-Refillable Steel Cylinders A–533–912	6/1/25–5/31/26
Cold-Drawn Mechanical Tubing A–533–873	6/1/25–5/31/26
Glycine A–533–883	6/1/25–5/31/26
High Chrome Cast Iron Grinding Media A–533–930	12/6/24–5/31/26
Raw Honey A–533–903	6/1/25–5/31/26
Quartz Surface Products A–533–889	6/1/25–5/31/26
INDONESIA: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–560–837	6/1/25–5/31/26
ITALY:	
Cold-Drawn Mechanical Tubing A–475–838	6/1/25–5/31/26
Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–475–843	6/1/25–5/31/26
JAPAN:	
Carbon And Alloy Seamless Standard, Line, And Pressure Pipe (Over 4 ½ Inches) A–588–850	6/1/25–5/31/26
Carbon And Alloy Seamless Standard, Line, And Pressure Pipe (Under 4 ½ Inches) A–588–851	6/1/25–5/31/26
Glycine A–588–878	6/1/25–5/31/26

[1] *See* Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, Public Law 114–27, 129 Stat. 362 (2015).

[2] Or the next business day, if the deadline falls on a weekend, Federal holiday or any other day when Commerce is closed.

	Period
MALAYSIA:	
Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules A–557–830	12/4/24–5/31/26
Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale A–557–824	6/1/25–5/31/26
Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–557–819	6/1/25–5/31/26
MEXICO: Brass Rod A–201–858	6/1/25–5/31/26
REPUBLIC OF KOREA:	
Brass Rod A–580–916	6/1/25–5/31/26
Cold-Drawn Mechanical Tubing A–580–892	6/1/25–5/31/26
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE: Quartz Surface Products A–489–837	6/1/25–5/31/26
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM:	
Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale A–552–835	6/1/25–5/31/26
Certain Tool Chests and Cabinets A–552–821	6/1/25–5/31/26
Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules A–552–841	12/4/24–5/31/26
Laminated Woven Sacks A–552–823	6/1/25–5/31/26
Raw Honey A–552–833	6/1/25–5/31/26
SOUTH AFRICA:	
Brass Rod A–791–828	6/1/25–5/31/26
Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–791–826	6/1/25–5/31/26
SPAIN:	
Chlorinated Isocyanurates A–469–814	6/1/25–5/31/26
Finished Carbon Steel Flanges A–469–815	6/1/25–5/31/26
Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–469–821	6/1/25–5/31/26
SWITZERLAND: Cold-Drawn Mechanical Tubing A–441–801	6/1/25–5/31/26
TAIWAN: Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale A–583–871	6/1/25–5/31/26
THAILAND:	
Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale A–549–846	6/1/25–5/31/26
Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules A–549–851	6/13/2025–5/31/2026
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:	
Alkyl Phosphate Esters A–570–168	12/4/24–5/31/26
Artist Canvas A–570–899	6/1/25–5/31/26
Ceramic Tile A–570–108	6/1/25–5/31/26
Certain Tool Chests and Cabinets A–570–056	6/1/25–5/31/26
Chlorinated Isocyanurates A–570–898	6/1/25–5/31/26
Cold-Drawn Mechanical Tubing A–570–058	6/1/25–5/31/26
Furfuryl Alcohol A–570–835	6/1/25–5/31/26
Polyester Staple Fiber A–570–905	6/1/25–5/31/26
Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–570–945	6/1/25–5/31/26
Silicon Metal A–570–806	6/1/25–5/31/26
Tapered Roller Bearings and Parts Thereof, Finished or Unfinished A–570–601	6/1/25–5/31/26
TUNISIA: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–723–001	6/1/25–5/31/26
UKRAINE: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand A–823–817	6/1/25–5/31/26
Countervailing Duty Proceedings	
CAMBODIA: Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules C–555–004	6/13/25–12/31/25
INDIA:	
Ceramic Tile C–533–929	9/27/24–12/31/2025
Certain Non-Refillable Steel Cylinders C–533–913	1/1/25–12/31/25
High Chrome Cast Iron Grinding Media C–533–931	10/4/24–12/31/25
Glycine C–533–884	1/1/25–12/31/25
Quartz Surface Products C–533–890	1/1/25–12/31/25
MALAYSIA: Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules C–557–831	10/4/24–12/31/25
REPUBLIC OF KOREA:	
Epoxy Resins C–580–920	4/3/25–12/31/25
Brass Rod C–580–917	1/1/25–12/31/25
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE: Quartz Surface Products C–489–838	1/1/25–12/31/25
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM:	
Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules C–552–842	10/4/24–12/31/25
Laminated Woven Sacks C–552–824	1/1/25–12/31/25
THAILAND: Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled in Modules C–549–852	6/13/25–12/31/25
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:	
Alkyl Phosphate Esters C–570–169	10/4/24–12/31/25
Ceramic Tile C–570–109	1/1/25–12/31/25
Glycine C–570–081	1/1/25–12/31/25
Stainless Steel Flanges C–570–065	1/1/25–12/31/25
Suspension Agreements	
None.	

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b), an interested party as defined by section 771(9) of the Act may request in writing that Commerce conduct an administrative review. For both AD and CVD reviews, the interested party must specify the individual producers or exporters covered by an AD finding or an AD or CVD order or suspension agreement for which it is requesting a review. In addition, a domestic interested party or

an interested party described in section 771(9)(B) of the Act must state why it desires Commerce to review those particular producers or exporters. If the interested party intends for Commerce to review sales of merchandise by an exporter (or a producer if that producer also exports merchandise from other suppliers) which was produced in more than one country of origin and each country of origin is subject to a separate order, then the interested party must state specifically, on an order-by-order basis, which exporter(s) the request is intended to cover.

Note that, for any party Commerce was unable to locate in prior segments, Commerce will not accept a request for an administrative review of that party absent new information as to the party's location. Moreover, if the interested party who files a request for review is unable to locate the producer or exporter for which it requested the review, the interested party must provide an explanation of the attempts it made to locate the producer or exporter at the same time it files its request for review, in order for Commerce to determine if the interested party's attempts were reasonable, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.303(f)(3)(ii).

Commerce is instituting a new formatting request. Specifically, Commerce asks that requests for review of multiple companies also include an appendix listing, in alphabetical order, the company names for which a review is requested. The list should be limited solely to company names and formatted as a single column, with each company name identified on a separate line, except in the case of companies that Commerce previously determined should be collapsed into a single entity or found to be cross-owned with other companies. Companies that Commerce previously determined should be collapsed or found to be cross-owned with one another should be listed together as a group, on one line—or more, as needed, for the group—with the company names within each group listed alphabetically and separated by semicolons.

As explained in *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties,* 68 FR 23954 (June 6, 2003), and *Non-Market Economy Antidumping Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties,* 76 FR 65694 (October 24, 2011), Commerce clarified its practice with respect to the collection of final antidumping duties on imports of merchandise where intermediate firms are involved. The public should be aware of this clarification in determining whether to request an administrative review of merchandise subject to AD findings and orders.[3]

Commerce no longer considers the non-market economy (NME) entity as an exporter conditionally subject to an AD administrative review.[4] Accordingly, the NME entity will not be under review unless Commerce specifically receives a request for, or self-initiates, a review of the NME entity.[5] In administrative reviews of AD orders on merchandise from NME countries where a review of the NME entity has not been initiated, but where an individual exporter for which a review was initiated does not qualify for a separate rate, Commerce will issue a final decision indicating that the company in question is part of the NME entity. However, in that situation, because no review of the NME entity was conducted, the NME entity's entries were not subject to the review and the rate for the NME entity is not subject to change as a result of that review (although the rate for the individual exporter may change as a function of the finding that the exporter is part of the NME entity). Following initiation of an AD administrative review when there is no review requested of the NME entity, Commerce will instruct CBP to liquidate entries for all exporters not named in the initiation notice, including those that were suspended at the NME entity rate.

All requests must be filed electronically in Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) on Enforcement and Compliance's ACCESS website at *https://access.trade.gov*.[6] Further, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303(f)(l)(i), a copy of each request must be served on the petitioner and each exporter or producer specified in the request. Interested parties should note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).[7]

Commerce will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of ''Initiation of Administrative Review of Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation'' for requests received by the last day of June 2026. If Commerce does not receive, by the last day of June 2026, a request for review of entries covered by an order, finding, or suspended investigation listed in this notice and for the period identified above, Commerce will instruct CBP to assess antidumping or countervailing duties on those entries at a rate equal to the cash deposit of estimated antidumping or countervailing duties required on those entries at the time of entry, or withdrawal from warehouse, for consumption and to continue to collect the cash deposit previously ordered.

For the first administrative review of any order, there will be no assessment of antidumping or countervailing duties on entries of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption during the relevant provisional-measures ''gap'' period of the order, if such a gap period is applicable to the period of review.

Establishment of and Updates to the Annual Inquiry Service List

On September 20, 2021, Commerce published the final rule titled ''*Regulations to Improve Administration and Enforcement of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Laws*'' in the **Federal Register**.[8] On September 27, 2021, Commerce also published the notice entitled ''*Scope Ruling Application; Annual Inquiry Service List; and Informational Sessions*'' in the **Federal Register**.[9] The *Final Rule* and *Procedural Guidance* provide that Commerce will maintain an annual inquiry service list for each order or suspended investigation, and any interested party submitting a scope ruling application or request for circumvention inquiry shall serve a copy of the application or request on the persons on the annual inquiry service list for that order, as well as any companion order covering the same

[3] *See* Enforcement and Compliance's website at *https://www.trade.gov/us-antidumping-and-countervailing-duties-home-page.*

[4] *See Antidumping Proceedings: Announcement of Change in Department Practice for Respondent Selection in Antidumping Duty Proceedings and Conditional Review of the Nonmarket Economy Entity in NME Antidumping Duty Proceedings,* 78 FR 65963 (November 4, 2013).

[5] In accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b)(1), parties should specify that they are requesting a review of entries from exporters comprising the entity, and to the extent possible, include the names of such exporters in their request.

[6] *See Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures,* 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011).

[7] *See Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings; Final Rule,* 88 FR 67069 (September 29, 2023).

[8] *See Regulations to Improve Administration and Enforcement of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Laws,* 86 FR 52300 (September 20, 2021) (*Final Rule*).

[9] *See Scope Ruling Application; Annual Inquiry Service List; and Informational Sessions,* 86 FR 53205 (September 27, 2021) (*Procedural Guidance*).

merchandise from the same country of origin.[10]

In accordance with the *Procedural Guidance,* for orders published in the **Federal Register** before November 4, 2021, Commerce created an annual inquiry service list segment for each order and suspended investigation. Interested parties who wished to be added to the annual inquiry service list for an order submitted an entry of appearance to the annual inquiry service list segment for the order in ACCESS and, on November 4, 2021, Commerce finalized the initial annual inquiry service lists for each order and suspended investigation. Each annual inquiry service list has been saved as a public service list in ACCESS, under each case number, and under a specific segment type called ''AISL-Annual Inquiry Service List.'' [11]

As mentioned in the *Procedural Guidance,* beginning in January 2022, Commerce will update these annual inquiry service lists on an annual basis when the *Opportunity Notice* for the anniversary month of the order or suspended investigation is published in the **Federal Register**.[12] Accordingly, Commerce will update the annual inquiry service lists for the above-listed AD and CVD proceedings. All interested parties wishing to appear on the updated annual inquiry service list must take one of the two following actions: (1) new interested parties who did not previously submit an entry of appearance must submit a new entry of appearance at this time; (2) interested parties who were included in the preceding annual inquiry service list must submit an amended entry of appearance to be included in the next year's annual inquiry service list. For these interested parties, Commerce will change the entry of appearance status from ''Active'' to ''Needs Amendment'' for the annual inquiry service lists corresponding to the above-listed proceedings. This will allow those interested parties to make any necessary amendments and resubmit their entries of appearance. If no amendments need to be made, the interested party should indicate in the area on the ACCESS form requesting an explanation for the amendment that it is resubmitting its entry of appearance for inclusion in the annual inquiry service list for the following year. As mentioned in the *Final Rule,*[13] once the petitioners and foreign governments have submitted an entry of appearance for the first time, they will automatically be added to the updated annual inquiry service list each year.

Interested parties have 30 days after the date of this notice to submit new or amended entries of appearance. Commerce will then finalize the annual inquiry service lists five business days thereafter. For ease of administration, please note that Commerce requests that law firms with more than one attorney representing interested parties in a proceeding designate a lead attorney to be included on the annual inquiry service list.

Commerce may update an annual inquiry service list at any time as needed based on interested parties' amendments to their entries of appearance to remove or otherwise modify their list of members and representatives, or to update contact information. Any changes or announcements pertaining to these procedures will be posted to the ACCESS website at *https://access.trade.gov.*

Special Instructions for Petitioners and Foreign Governments

In the *Final Rule,* Commerce stated that, ''after an initial request and placement on the annual inquiry service list, both petitioners and foreign governments will automatically be placed on the annual inquiry service list in the years that follow.'' [14] Accordingly, as stated above and pursuant to 19 CFR 351.225(n)(3), the petitioners and foreign governments will not need to resubmit their entries of appearance each year to continue to be included on the annual inquiry service list. However, the petitioners and foreign governments are responsible for making amendments to their entries of appearance during the annual update to the annual inquiry service list in accordance with the procedures described above.

Notification to Interested Parties

This notice is not required by statute but is published as a service to the international trading community.

Dated: May 20, 2026.

Scot Fullerton,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

[FR Doc. 2026–10938 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–234]

N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

DATES: Applicable May 27, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caroline Carroll, Office IX, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4948.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Petition

On May 7, 2026, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) received an antidumping duty (AD) petition concerning imports of N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide (CBS) from the People's Republic of China (China), filed in proper form on behalf of LANXESS Corporation (the petitioner), a domestic producer of CBS.[1] The AD Petition was accompanied by a countervailing duty (CVD) petition concerning imports of CBS from China.[2]

Between May 13 and 20, 2026, Commerce requested supplemental information pertaining to certain aspects of the Petition in supplemental questionnaires.[3] Between May 15 and 27, 2026, the petitioner filed timely responses to these requests for additional information.[4]

[10] *Id.*

[11] This segment has been combined with the ACCESS Segment Specific Information (SSI) field which will display the month in which the notice of the order or suspended investigation was published in the **Federal Register**, also known as the anniversary month. For example, for an order under case number A–000–000 that was published in the **Federal Register** in January, the relevant segment and SSI combination will appear in ACCESS as ''AISL-January Anniversary.'' Note that there will be only one annual inquiry service list segment per case number, and the anniversary month will be pre-populated in ACCESS.

[12] *See Procedural Guidance,* 86 FR at 53206.

[13] *See Final Rule,* 86 FR at 52335.

[14] *Id.*

[1] *See* Petitioner's Letter, ''Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions,'' dated May 7, 2026 (Petition).

[2] *Id.*

[3] *See* Commerce's Letters, ''General Issues Supplemental Questions,'' dated May 13, 2026 (First General Issues Questionnaire); ''Supplemental Questions,'' dated May 13, 2026; ''Second Antidumping Duties Supplement Questions,'' dated May 19, 2026; ''Second General Issues Supplemental Questions,'' dated May 20, 2026 (Second General Issues Questionnaire).

[4] *See* Petitioner's Letters, ''Response to General Issues Supplemental Questionnaire and

Continued

In accordance with section 732(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the petitioner alleges that imports of CBS from China are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV) within the meaning of section 731 of the Act, and that imports of such products are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the CBS industry in the United States. Consistent with section 732(b)(1) of the Act, the Petition was accompanied by information reasonably available to the petitioner supporting its allegations.

Commerce finds that the petitioner filed the Petition on behalf of the domestic industry, because the petitioner is an interested party, as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act. Commerce also finds that the petitioner demonstrated sufficient industry support for the initiation of the requested LTFV investigation.[5]

Period of Investigation (POI)

Because the Petition was filed on May 7, 2026, and because China is a non-market economy (NME) country pursuant to 19 CFR 351.204(b)(1), the POI for the LTFV investigation is October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is CBS from China. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, *see* the appendix to this notice.

Comments on the Scope of the Investigation

Between May 13 and 20, 2026, Commerce requested information and clarification from the petitioner regarding the proposed scope to ensure that the scope language in the Petition is an accurate reflection of the products for which the domestic industry is seeking relief.[6] Between May 15 and 21, 2026, the petitioner provided clarifications and revised the scope.[7] The description of merchandise covered by this investigation, as described in the appendix to this notice, reflects these clarifications.

As discussed in the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations, we are setting aside a period for interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.,* scope).[8] Commerce will consider all scope comments received from interested parties and, if necessary, will consult with interested parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determination. If scope comments include factual information, all such factual information should be limited to public information.[9] Commerce requests that interested parties provide at the beginning of their scope comments a public executive summary for each comment or issue raised in their submission. Commerce further requests that interested parties limit their public executive summary of each comment or issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. Commerce intends to use the public executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the analysis of scope comments. To facilitate preparation of its questionnaires, Commerce requests that scope comments be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on June 16, 2026, which is 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments, which may include factual information and should also be limited to public information, must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on June 26, 2026, which is 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline.

Commerce requests that any factual information that parties consider relevant to the scope of this investigation be submitted during that period. However, if a party subsequently finds that additional factual information pertaining to the scope of the investigation may be relevant, the party must contact Commerce and request permission to submit the additional information. All scope comments must be filed simultaneously on the records of the concurrent LTFV and CVD investigations.

Filing Requirements

All submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS), unless an exception applies.[10] An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by the time and date it is due.

Comments on Product Characteristics

Commerce is providing interested parties an opportunity to comment on the appropriate physical characteristics of CBS to be reported in response to Commerce's AD questionnaires. This information will be used to identify the key physical characteristics of the subject merchandise in order to report the relevant factors of production (FOP) accurately, as well as to develop appropriate product comparison criteria.

In order to consider the suggestions of interested parties in developing and issuing the AD questionnaires, all product characteristics comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on June 16, 2026, which is 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on June 26, 2026, which is 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline. All comments and submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically using ACCESS, as explained above, on the record of the LTFV investigation.

Determination of Industry Support for the Petition

Section 732(b)(1) of the Act requires that a petition be filed on behalf of the domestic industry. Section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act provides that a petition meets this requirement if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for: (i) at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (ii) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition. Moreover, section 732(c)(4)(D) of the Act provides that, if the petition does not establish support of domestic producers or workers accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product, Commerce shall: (i) poll the industry or

Amendment to Volume I of the Petition,'' dated May 15, 2026 (First General Issues Supplement); ''Antidumping Duty Supplemental Questionnaire Response,'' dated May 15, 2026; ''Second General Issues Questionnaire Response,'' dated May 21, 2026 (Second General Issues Supplement); ''Second Antidumping Duty Supplemental Questionnaire Response,'' dated May 21, 2026; ''Submission of Additional Materials to Second Antidumping Duty Supplemental Questionnaire Response,'' dated May 26, 2026; and ''Errata to Submission of Additional Materials to Second Antidumping Duty Supplemental Questionnaire Response,'' dated May 27, 2026.

[5] *See* section on ''Determination of Industry Support for the Petition,'' *infra.*

[6] *See* First General Issues Questionnaire; *see also* Second General Issues Questionnaire.

[7] *See* First General Issues Supplement 3–10; *see also* Second General Issues Supplement at 3–4.

[8] *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule,* 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*); *see also* 19 CFR 351.312.

[9] *See* 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) (defining ''factual information'').

[10] *See Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures,* 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011); *see also Enforcement and Compliance; Change of Electronic Filing System Name,* 79 FR 69046 (November 20, 2014), for details of Commerce's electronic filing requirements, effective August 5, 2011. Information on using ACCESS can be found at *https://access.trade.gov/help* and a handbook can be found at *https://access.trade.gov/ACCESS%20Handbook%20on%20Electronic%20Filing%20Procedures_March2026.pdf.*

rely on other information in order to determine if there is support for the petition, as required by subparagraph (A); or (ii) determine industry support using a statistically valid sampling method to poll the ''industry.''

Section 771(4)(A) of the Act defines the ''industry'' as the producers as a whole of a domestic like product. Thus, to determine whether a petition has the requisite industry support, the statute directs Commerce to look to producers and workers who produce the domestic like product. The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), which is responsible for determining whether ''the domestic industry'' has been injured, must also determine what constitutes a domestic like product in order to define the industry. While both Commerce and the ITC apply the same statutory definition regarding the domestic like product,[11] they do so for different purposes and pursuant to a separate and distinct authority. In addition, Commerce's determination is subject to limitations of time and information. Although this may result in different definitions of the like product, such differences do not render the decision of either agency contrary to law.[12]

Section 771(10) of the Act defines the domestic like product as ''a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this title.'' Thus, the reference point from which the domestic like product analysis begins is ''the article subject to an investigation'' (*i.e.,* the class or kind of merchandise to be investigated, which normally will be the scope as defined in the petition).

With regard to the domestic like product, the petitioner does not offer a definition of the domestic like product distinct from the scope of the investigation.[13] Based on our analysis of the information submitted on the record, we have determined that CBS, as defined in the scope, constitutes a single domestic like product, and we have analyzed industry support in terms of that domestic like product.[14]

In determining whether the petitioner has standing under section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act, we considered the industry support data contained in the Petition with reference to the domestic like product as defined in the ''Scope of the Investigation,'' in the appendix to this notice. To establish industry support, the petitioner provided its own 2025 production of the domestic like product.[15] The petitioner identified itself as the only producer of CBS in the United States; therefore, the Petition is supported by 100 percent of the U.S. industry.[16] We relied on data provided by the petitioner for purposes of measuring industry support.[17]

Our review of the data provided in the Petition, the First General Issues Supplement, and other information readily available to Commerce indicates that the petitioner has established industry support for the Petition.[18] First, the Petition established support from domestic producers (or workers) accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product and, as such, Commerce is not required to take further action in order to evaluate industry support (*e.g.,* polling).[19] Second, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product.[20] Finally, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the Petition.[21] Accordingly, Commerce determines that the Petition was filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 732(b)(1) of the Act.[22]

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petitioner alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of the imports of the subject merchandise sold at LTFV. In addition, the petitioner alleges that subject imports exceed the negligibility threshold provided for under section 771(24)(A) of the Act.[23]

The petitioner contends that the industry's injured condition is illustrated by a significant increase in the volume of subject imports; reduced market share; lost sales and revenues; underselling and price depression and suppression; declines in production, capacity utilization, U.S. shipments, and employment variables; and negative impact on financial performance.[24] We assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury, threat of material injury, causation, as well as negligibility, and we have determined that these allegations are properly supported by adequate evidence, and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.[25]

Allegations of Sales at LTFV

The following is a description of the allegations of sales at LTFV upon which Commerce based its decision to initiate an LTFV investigation of imports of CBS from China. The sources of data for the deductions and adjustments relating to U.S. price and normal value (NV) are discussed in greater detail in the China AD Initiation Checklist.

U.S. Price

The petitioner based export price (EP) on pricing information for CBS produced in China and sold or offered for sale in the U.S. market.[26] The petitioner conservatively did not make any adjustments to U.S. price to calculate a net ex-factory U.S. price.[27]

Normal Value

Commerce considers China to be an NME country.[28] In accordance with

[11] *See* section 771(10) of the Act.

[12] *See USEC, Inc.* v. *United States,* 132 F.Supp 2d 1, 8 (CIT 2001) (citing *Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd.* v. *United States,* 688 F.Supp. 639, 644 (CIT 1988), *aff'd Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd.* v. *United States,* 865 F.2d 240 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

[13] For a discussion of the domestic like product analysis as applied to this case and information regarding industry support, *see* Checklist, ''Antidumping Duty Investigation Initiation Checklist: N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (China AD Initiation Checklist), at Attachment II, ''Analysis of Industry Support for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions Covering N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China'' (Attachment II). This checklist is on file electronically via ACCESS.

[14] For further discussion, *see* Attachment II of the China AD Initiation Checklist.

[15] *Id.*

[16] *Id.*

[17] *Id.*

[18] *See* Attachment II of the China AD Initiation Checklist.

[19] *Id.; see also* section 732(c)(4)(D) of the Act.

[20] *See* Attachment II of the China AD Initiation Checklist.

[21] *Id.*

[22] *Id.*

[23] For further discussion, *see* China AD Initiation Checklist at Attachment III, ''Analysis of Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions Covering N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China.''

[24] *Id.*

[25] *Id.*

[26] *See* China AD Initiation Checklist.

[27] *Id.*

[28] *See, e.g., Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Preliminary Affirmative*

Continued

section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Act, any determination that a foreign country is an NME country shall remain in effect until revoked by Commerce. Therefore, we continue to treat China as an NME country for purposes of the initiation of the LTFV investigation. Accordingly, we base NV on FOPs valued in surrogate market economy countries in accordance with section 773(c) of the Act.

The petitioner claims that Brazil, Malaysia, and Mexico are appropriate surrogate countries for China because they are market economy countries that are at a level of economic development comparable to that of China and are significant producers of comparable merchandise.[29] The petitioner provided publicly available information from Brazil, Malaysia, and Mexico to value all FOPs.[30] Based on the information provided by the petitioner, we believe it is appropriate to use Brazil, Malaysia, and Mexico as surrogate countries for China to value all FOPs for initiation purposes.

Interested parties will have the opportunity to submit comments regarding surrogate country selection and, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.301(c)(3)(i), will be provided an opportunity to submit publicly available information to value FOPs within 30 days before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination.

Factors of Production

Because information regarding the volume of inputs consumed by Brazilian, Malaysian, and Mexican producers/exporters were not reasonably available, the petitioner used its own production experience and product-specific consumptions rates as a surrogate to value the Chinese manufacturers' FOPs.[31] Additionally, the petitioner calculated factory overhead, selling, general, and administrative expenses, and profit based on the experiences of a Mexican producer of comparable merchandise.[32]

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioner, there is reason to believe that imports of CBS from China are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at LTFV. Based on comparisons of EP or NV in accordance with sections 772 and 773 of the Act, after accounting for certain revisions made by Commerce, the estimated dumping margins for CBS from China covered by this initiation are (1) China (Brazil surrogate)—338.51 percent; (2) China (Malaysia surrogate)—322.55 percent; (3) China (Mexico surrogate)—285.94 percent.[33]

Initiation of LTFV Investigation

Based upon the examination of the Petition and supplemental responses, we find that they meet the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating an LTFV investigation to determine whether imports of CBS from China are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at LTFV. In accordance with section 733(b)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(b)(1), unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the date of this initiation.

Respondent Selection

In the Petition, the petitioner identified six companies in China as producers and/or exporters of CBS.[34] Our standard practice for respondent selection in an AD investigation involving an NME country is to select respondents based on quantity and value (Q&V) questionnaires in cases where Commerce has determined that the number is large, and it cannot individually examine each company based upon its resources. Therefore, considering the number of producers and/or exporters identified in the Petition, Commerce will solicit Q&V information that can serve as a basis for selecting exporters for individual examination in the event that Commerce determines that the number is large and decides to limit the number of respondents individually examined pursuant to section 777A(c)(2) of the Act. Given the number of producers and/or exporters identified in the Petition, Commerce has determined that it will issue Q&V questionnaires to each potential respondent for which there is complete address information on the record.

Commerce will post the Q&V questionnaires along with filing instruction on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/ec-adcvd-qv-questionnaire.* Producers/exporters of CBS from China that do not receive Q&V questionnaires may still submit a response to the Q&V questionnaire and can obtain a copy of the Q&V questionnaire from Commerce's website. Responses to the Q&V questionnaire may be submitted by the relevant Chinese producers/exporters no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on June 10, 2026, which is two weeks from the signature date of this notice. All Q&V questionnaire responses must be filed electronically via ACCESS. An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by ACCESS no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on the deadline noted above.

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective order (APO) in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(b). Instructions for filing such applications may be found on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/administrative-protective-orders.*

Separate Rates

In order to obtain separate rate status in an NME investigation, exporters and producers must submit a separate rate application. The specific requirements for submitting a separate rate application in an NME investigation are outlined in detail in the application itself, which is available on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/non-market-economy-separate-rate-applications-and-certifications.* Note that Commerce recently promulgated new regulations pertaining to separate rates, including the separate rate application deadline and eligibility for separate rate status, in 19 CFR 351.108.[35] Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.108(d)(1), the separate rate application will be due 21 days after publication of this initiation notice.[36] Exporters and producers must file a timely separate rate application if they want to be considered for individual examination. In addition, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.108(e), exporters and producers who submit a separate rate application and have been selected as mandatory respondents will be eligible for consideration for separate rate status only if they fully respond to all parts of Commerce's AD questionnaire and participate in the LTFV proceeding as mandatory respondents.[37] Commerce requires that companies from China submit a response to the Q&V questionnaire and a separate rate application by the respective deadlines to receive consideration for separate rate

Determination of Critical Circumstances, 88 FR 15372 (March 13, 2023), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum at 5, unchanged in *Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less-Than-Fair Value and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances,* 88 FR 34485 (May 30, 2023).

[29] *See* China AD Initiation Checklist.

[30] *Id.*

[31] *Id.*

[32] *Id.*

[33] *Id.*

[34] *See* Petition at Volume I (page 13 and Exhibit I–17); *see also* First General Issues Supplement at 2–3 and Exhibit I-Supp-1.

[35] *See Regulations Enhancing the Administration of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Trade Remedy Laws,* 89 FR 101694, 101759–60 (December 16, 2024).

[36] *See* 19 CFR 351.108(d)(1).

[37] *See* 19 CFR 351.108(e).

status. Companies not filing a timely Q&V questionnaire response will not receive separate rate consideration.

Use of Combination Rates

Commerce will calculate combination rates for certain respondents that are eligible for a separate rate in an NME investigation. The Separate Rates and Combination Rates Bulletin states:

{w}hile continuing the practice of assigning separate rates only to exporters, all separate rates that {Commerce} will now assign in its NME investigation will be specific to those producers that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation. Note, however, that one rate is calculated for the exporter and all of the producers which supplied subject merchandise to it during the period of investigation. This practice applies both to mandatory respondents receiving an individually calculated separate rate as well as the pool of non-investigated firms receiving the {weighted average} of the individually calculated rates. This practice is referred to as the application of ''combination rates'' because such rates apply to specific combinations of exporters and one or more producers. The cash-deposit rate assigned to an exporter will apply only to merchandise both exported by the firm in question and produced by a firm that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation.[38]

Distribution of a Copy of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(f), a copy of the public version of the Petition has been provided to the Government of China via ACCESS. To the extent practicable, we will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the Petition to each exporter named in the Petition, as provided under 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

ITC Notification

Commerce will notify the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 45 days after the date on which the Petition was filed, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of CBS from China are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, a U.S. industry.[39] A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated.[40] Otherwise, this LTFV investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Submission of Factual Information

Factual information is defined in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) as: (i) evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by Commerce; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)–(iv). Section 351.301(b) of Commerce's regulations requires any party, when submitting factual information, to specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted[41] and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct.[42] Time limits for the submission of factual information are addressed in 19 CFR 351.301, which provides specific time limits based on the type of factual information being submitted. Interested parties should review the regulations prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

Extensions of Time Limits

Parties may request an extension of time limits before the expiration of a time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce. In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the expiration of the time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce.[43] For submissions that are due from multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. ET on the due date. Under certain circumstances, Commerce may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, we will inform parties in a letter or memorandum of the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered timely. An extension request must be made in a separate, standalone submission; under limited circumstances we will grant untimely filed requests for the extension of time limits, where we determine, based on 19 CFR 351.302, that extraordinary circumstances exist. Parties should review Commerce's regulations concerning the extension of time limits and the *Time Limits Final Rule* prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.[44]

Certification Requirements

Any party submitting factual information in an AD or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.[45] Parties must use the certification formats provided in 19 CFR 351.303(g).[46] Commerce intends to reject factual submissions if the submitting party does not comply with the applicable certification requirements.

Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Parties wishing to participate in this investigation should ensure that they meet the requirements of 19 CFR 351.103(d) (*e.g.,* by filing the required letter of appearance). Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).[47]

This notice is issued and published pursuant to sections 732(c)(2) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.203(c).

Dated: May 27, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

Scope of the Investigation

The product subject to this investigation is N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-sulfenamide (CBS), an organic compound also known as N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide, N-(1,3-benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl)

[38] See Enforcement and Compliance's Policy Bulletin No. 05.1, regarding, ''Separate-Rates Practice and Application of Combination Rates in Antidumping Investigation involving NME Countries,'' (April 5, 2005), at 6 (emphasis added), available on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/enforcement-and-compliance-policy-bulletins-0.*

[39] *See* section 733(a) of the Act.

[40] *Id.*

[41] *See* 19 CFR 351.301(b).

[42] *See* 19 CFR 351.301(b)(2).

[43] *See* 19 CFR 351.301; *see also Extension of Time Limits; Final Rule,* 78 FR 57790 (September 20, 2013 (*Time Limits Final Rule*)), available at *https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22853.htm.*

[44] *See* 19 CFR 351.302; *see also, e.g., Time Limits Final Rule.*

[45] *See* section 782(b) of the Act.

[46] *See Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,* 78 FR 42678 (July 17, 2013) (*Final Rule*). Additional information regarding the *Final Rule* is available at *https://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual_info_final_rule_FAQ_07172013.pdf.*

[47] *See Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,* 88 FR 67069 (September 29, 2023).

cyclohexanamine and N-cyclohexylbenzothiazol-2-sulphenamide. It may additionally be termed Accelerator CZ, CBTS, Thiohexam, HIP4, Curax, DURAX, Conaca, Conach, Conacs, or Celacs. A CBS assay or sample most commonly reflects a concentration of 94 to 99 percent.

CBS is most commonly in the form of an off-white or light gray powder, oiled powder, or granule, though CBS imported in a different color or form is included in the scope. CBS typically has a melting point of 90 to 110°C and a molecular weight of 264.4 g/mol. CBS may be imported in a solution of benzene, ethanol, or acetone. CBS has the chemical formula $C_{13}H_{16}N_2S_2$ and is assigned the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) registry No. 95–33–0.

The scope also includes CBS that is commingled with CBS from sources not subject to this investigation.

CBS powder, oiled powder, and granules are classified under subheading 2934.20.8000, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Imports of CBS may also be classified under subheadings 3812.10.1000 and 3812.10.5000, HTSUS. Although the HTSUS and CAS numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2026–11000 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–570–235]

N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

DATES: Applicable May 27, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristen Johnson or Samuel Brumitt, Office III, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4793 or (202) 482–7851, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Petition

On May 7, 2026, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) received a countervailing duty (CVD) petition concerning imports of N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide (CBS) from the People's Republic of China (China), filed in proper form on behalf of LANXESS Corporation (the petitioner), a domestic producer of CBS.[1] The CVD Petition was accompanied by an antidumping duty (AD) petition concerning imports of CBS from China.[2]

Between May 13 and 20, 2026, Commerce requested supplemental information pertaining to certain aspects of the Petition in supplemental questionnaires.[3] Between May 15 and 21, 2026, the petitioner filed timely responses to these requests for additional information.[4]

In accordance with section 702(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the petitioner alleges that the Government of China (GOC) is providing countervailable subsidies, within the meaning of sections 701 and 771(5) of the Act, to producers of CBS from China, and that such imports are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the domestic industry producing CBS in the United States. Consistent with section 702(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(b), for those alleged programs on which we are initiating a CVD investigation, the Petition was accompanied by information reasonably available to the petitioner supporting its allegations.

Commerce finds that the petitioner filed the Petition on behalf of the domestic industry, because the petitioner is an interested party, as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act. Commerce also finds that the petitioner demonstrated sufficient industry support with respect to the initiation of the requested CVD investigation.[5]

Period of Investigation (POI)

Because the Petition was filed on May 7, 2026, the POI is January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.[6]

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is CBS from China. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, *see* the appendix to this notice.

Comments on the Scope of the Investigation

Between May 13 and 20, 2026, Commerce requested information and clarification from the petitioner regarding the proposed scope to ensure that the scope language in the Petition is an accurate reflection of the products for which the domestic industry is seeking relief.[7] Between May 15 and 21, 2026, the petitioner provided clarifications and revised the scope.[8] The description of merchandise covered by this investigation, as described in the appendix to this notice, reflects these clarifications.

As discussed in the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations, we are setting aside a period for interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.,* scope).[9] Commerce will consider all scope comments received from interested parties and, if necessary, will consult with interested parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determination. If scope comments include factual information, all such factual information should be limited to public information.[10] Commerce requests that interested parties provide at the beginning of their scope comments a public executive summary for each comment or issue raised in their submission. Commerce further requests that interested parties limit their public executive summary of each comment or issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. Commerce intends to use the public executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the analysis of scope comments. To facilitate preparation of its questionnaires, Commerce requests that scope comments be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on June 16, 2026, which is 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments, which may include factual information, and should also be limited to public information, must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on June 26, 2026, which is 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline.

Commerce requests that any factual information that parties consider

[1] *See* Petitioner's Letter, ''Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions,'' dated May 7, 2026 (Petition).

[2] *Id.*

[3] *See* Commerce's Letters, ''General Issues Supplemental Questions,'' dated May 13, 2026 (First General Issues Questionnaire); *see also* ''Countervailing Duty Supplemental Questions,'' dated May 13, 2026; and ''Second Supplemental Questions,'' dated May 20, 2026 (Second General Issues Questionnaire).

[4] *See* Petitioner's Letters, ''Response to General Issues Supplemental Questionnaire and Amendment to Volume I of the Petition,'' dated May 15, 2026 (First General Issues Supplement); ''Response to Countervailing Duty Petition Supplemental Questionnaire and Amendment to Volume II of the Petition, '' dated May 15, 2026; and ''Second General Issues Supplemental Questionnaire Response,'' dated May 21, 2026 (Second General Issues Supplement).

[5] *See* section on ''Determination of Industry Support for the Petition,'' *infra.*

[6] *See* 19 CFR 351.204(b)(2).

[7] *See* First General Issues Questionnaire; *see also* Second General Issues Questionnaire.

[8] *See* First General Issues Supplement at 3–10; *see also* Second General Issues Supplement at 3–4.

[9] *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule,* 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*); *see also* 19 CFR 351.312.

[10] *See* 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) (defining ''factual information'').

relevant to the scope of this investigation be submitted during that period. However, if a party subsequently finds that additional factual information pertaining to the scope of the investigation may be relevant, the party must contact Commerce and request permission to submit the additional information. All scope comments must be filed simultaneously on the records of the concurrent AD and CVD investigations.

Filing Requirements

All submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS), unless an exception applies.[11] An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by the time and date it is due.

Consultations

Pursuant to sections 702(b)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act, Commerce notified the GOC of the receipt of the Petition and provided an opportunity for consultations with respect to the Petition.[12] The GOC did not request consultations.

Determination of Industry Support for the Petition

Section 702(b)(1) of the Act requires that a petition be filed on behalf of the domestic industry. Section 702(c)(4)(A) of the Act provides that a petition meets this requirement if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for: (i) at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (ii) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition. Moreover, section 702(c)(4)(D) of the Act provides that, if the petition does not establish support of domestic producers or workers accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product, Commerce shall: (i) poll the industry or rely on other information in order to determine if there is support for the petition, as required by subparagraph (A); or (ii) determine industry support using a statistically valid sampling method to poll the ''industry.''

Section 771(4)(A) of the Act defines the ''industry'' as the producers as a whole of a domestic like product. Thus, to determine whether a petition has the requisite industry support, the statute directs Commerce to look to producers and workers who produce the domestic like product. The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), which is responsible for determining whether ''the domestic industry'' has been injured, must also determine what constitutes a domestic like product in order to define the industry. While both Commerce and the ITC apply the same statutory definition regarding the domestic like product,[13] they do so for different purposes and pursuant to a separate and distinct authority. In addition, Commerce's determination is subject to limitations of time and information. Although this may result in different definitions of the like product, such differences do not render the decision of either agency contrary to law.[14]

Section 771(10) of the Act defines the domestic like product as ''a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this title.'' Thus, the reference point from which the domestic like product analysis begins is ''the article subject to an investigation'' (*i.e.,* the class or kind of merchandise to be investigated, which normally will be the scope as defined in the petition).

With regard to the domestic like product, the petitioner does not offer a definition of the domestic like product distinct from the scope of the investigation.[15] Based on our analysis of the information submitted on the record, we have determined that CBS, as defined in the scope, constitutes a single domestic like product, and we have analyzed industry support in terms of that domestic like product.[16]

In determining whether the petitioner has standing under section 702(c)(4)(A) of the Act, we considered the industry support data contained in the Petition with reference to the domestic like product as defined in the ''Scope of the Investigation,'' in the appendix to this notice. To establish industry support, the petitioner provided its own 2025 production of the domestic like product.[17] The petitioner identified itself as the only producer of CBS in the United States; therefore, the Petition is supported by 100 percent of the U.S. industry.[18] We relied on data provided by the petitioner for purposes of measuring industry support.[19]

Our review of the data provided in the Petition, the First General Issues Supplement, and other information readily available to Commerce indicates that the petitioner has established industry support for the Petition.[20] First, the Petition established support from domestic producers (or workers) accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product and, as such, Commerce is not required to take further action in order to evaluate industry support (*e.g.,* polling).[21] Second, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 702(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product.[22] Finally, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 702(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the Petition.[23] Accordingly, Commerce determines that the Petition was filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 702(b)(1) of the Act.[24]

[11] *See Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures,* 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011); *see also Enforcement and Compliance; Change of Electronic Filing System Name,* 79 FR 69046 (November 20, 2014), for details of Commerce's electronic filing requirements, effective August 5, 2011. Information on using ACCESS can be found at *https://access.trade.gov/help* and a handbook can be found at *https://access.trade.gov/help/Handbook_on_Electronic_Filing_Procedures_March2026.pdf.*

[12] *See* Commerce's Letter, ''Invitation for Consultations to Discuss the Countervailing Duty Petition,'' dated May 8, 2026.

[13] *See* section 771(10) of the Act.

[14] *See USEC, Inc.* v. *United States,* 132 F. Supp. 2d 1, 8 (CIT 2001) (citing *Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd.* v. *United States,* 688 F. Supp. 639, 644 (CIT 1988), *aff'd Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd.* v. *United States,* 865 F.2d 240 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

[15] For a discussion of the domestic like product analysis as applied to this case and information regarding industry support, *see* Checklist, ''Countervailing Duty Investigation Initiation Checklist: N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (China CVD Initiation Checklist), at Attachment II, ''Analysis of Industry Support for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions Covering N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China'' (Attachment II). This checklist is on file electronically via ACCESS.

[16] For further discussion, *see* Attachment II of the China CVD Initiation Checklist.

[17] *Id.*

[18] *Id.*

[19] *Id.*

[20] *See* Attachment II of the China CVD Initiation Checklist.

[21] *Id.; see also* section 702(c)(4)(D) of the Act.

[22] *See* Attachment II of the China CVD Initiation Checklist.

[23] *Id.*

[24] *Id.*

Injury Test

Because China is a ''Subsidies Agreement Country'' within the meaning of section 701(b) of the Act, section 701(a)(2) of the Act applies to this investigation. Accordingly, the ITC must determine whether imports of the subject merchandise from China materially injure, or threaten material injury to, a U.S. industry.

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petitioner alleges that imports of the subject merchandise are benefiting from countervailable subsidies and that such imports are causing, or threaten to cause, material injury to the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product. In addition, the petitioner alleges that subject imports exceed the negligibility threshold provided for under section 771(24)(A) of the Act.[25]

The petitioner contends that the industry's injured condition is illustrated by a significant increase in the volume of subject imports; reduced market share; lost sales and revenues; underselling and price depression and suppression; declines in production, capacity utilization, U.S. shipments, and employment variables; and negative impact on financial performance.[26] We assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury, threat of material injury, causation, as well as negligibility, and we have determined that these allegations are properly supported by adequate evidence, and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.[27]

Initiation of CVD Investigation

Based upon the examination of the Petition and supplemental responses, we find that they meet the requirements of section 702 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating a CVD investigation to determine whether imports of CBS from China benefit from countervailable subsidies conferred by the GOC. In accordance with section 703(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(b)(1), unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 65 days after the date of this initiation.

Based on our review of the Petition, we find that there is sufficient information to initiate a CVD investigation on 32 programs alleged by the petitioner. For a full discussion of the basis for our decision to initiate on each program, *see* the China CVD Initiation Checklist. A public version of the initiation checklist for this investigation is available on ACCESS.

Respondent Selection

In the Petition, the petitioner identified six companies in China.[28] Commerce intends to follow its standard practice in CVD investigations and calculate company-specific subsidy rates in this investigation. In the event that Commerce determines that the number of companies is large and it cannot individually examine each company based on Commerce's resources, Commerce normally selects mandatory respondents in CVD investigations using U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) entry data for U.S. imports under the appropriate Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading(s) listed in the ''Scope of the Investigation'' in the appendix. However, for this investigation, the main HTSUS subheading under which the subject merchandise would enter (2934.20.8000) is not limited to subject merchandise and therefore may also cover non-subject merchandise. Therefore, we cannot rely on CBP entry data in selecting respondents. Accordingly, Commerce will send quantity and value (Q&V) questionnaires to each producer and/or exporter for which there is complete address information on the record.

Commerce will post the Q&V questionnaire along with filing instructions on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/ec-adcvd-qv-questionnaire.* Producers/exporters of CBS from China that do not receive Q&V questionnaires may still submit a response to the Q&V questionnaire and can obtain a copy of the Q&V questionnaire from Commerce's website. Responses to the Q&V questionnaire must be submitted by the relevant Chinese producers/exporters no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on June 10, 2026, which is two weeks from the signature date of this notice. All Q&V questionnaire responses must be filed electronically via ACCESS. An electronically filed document must be received successfully, in its entirety, by ACCESS no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on the deadline noted above.

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective order (APO) in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(b). Instructions for filing such applications may be found on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/administrative-protective-orders.*

Distribution of a Copy of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(f), a copy of the public version of the Petition has been provided to the GOC via ACCESS. To the extent practicable, we will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the Petition to each exporter named in the Petition, as provided under 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

ITC Notification

Commerce will notify the ITC of its initiation, as required by section 702(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 45 days after the date on which the Petition was filed, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of CBS from China are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, a U.S. industry.[29] A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated.[30] Otherwise, this CVD investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Submission of Factual Information

Factual information is defined in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) as: (i) evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors of production under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by Commerce; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)–(iv). Section 351.301(b) of Commerce's regulations requires any party, when submitting factual information, to specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted[31] and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct.[32] Time limits for the submission of factual information are

[25] For further discussion, *see* China CVD Initiation Checklist at Attachment III, ''Analysis of Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions Covering N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China.''

[26] *Id.*

[27] *Id.*

[28] *See* Petition at Volume I (page 13 and Exhibit I–17); *see also* First General Issues Supplement at 2–3 and Exhibit I-Supp-1.

[29] *See* section 703(a)(1) of the Act.

[30] *Id.*

[31] *See* 19 CFR 351.301(b).

[32] *See* 19 CFR 351.301(b)(2).

addressed in 19 CFR 351.301, which provides specific time limits based on the type of factual information being submitted. Interested parties should review the regulations prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

Extensions of Time Limits

Parties may request an extension of time limits before the expiration of a time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce. In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the expiration of the time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce.[33] For submissions that are due from multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. ET on the due date. Under certain circumstances, Commerce may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, we will inform parties in a letter or memorandum of the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered timely. An extension request must be made in a separate, standalone submission; under limited circumstances we will grant untimely filed requests for the extension of time limits, where we determine, based on 19 CFR 351.302, that extraordinary circumstances exist. Parties should review Commerce's regulations concerning the extension of time limits and the *Time Limits Final Rule* prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.[34]

Certification Requirements

Any party submitting factual information in an AD or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.[35] Parties must use the certification formats provided in 19 CFR 351.303(g).[36] Commerce intends to reject factual submissions if the submitting party does not comply with the applicable certification requirements.

Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Parties wishing to participate in this investigation should ensure that they meet the requirements of 19 CFR 351.103(d) (*e.g.,* by filing the required letters of appearance). Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).[37]

This notice is issued and published pursuant to sections 702 and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.203(c).

Dated: May 27, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

Scope of the Investigation

The product subject to this investigation is N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-sulfenamide (CBS), an organic compound also known as N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide, N-(1,3-benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl) cyclohexanamine and N-cyclohexylbenzothiazol-2-sulphenamide. It may additionally be termed Accelerator CZ, CBTS, Thiohexam, HIP4, Curax, DURAX, Conaca, Conach, Conacs, or Celacs. A CBS assay or sample most commonly reflects a concentration of 94 to 99 percent.

CBS is most commonly in the form of an off-white or light gray powder, oiled powder, or granule, though CBS imported in a different color or form is included in the scope. CBS typically has a melting point of 90 to 110 °C and a molecular weight of 264.4 g/mol. CBS may be imported in a solution of benzene, ethanol, or acetone. CBS has the chemical formula $C_{13}H_{16}N_2S_2$ and is assigned the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) registry No. 95–33–0.

The scope also includes CBS that is commingled with CBS from sources not subject to this investigation.

CBS powder, oiled powder, and granules are classified under subheading 2934.20.8000, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Imports of CBS may also be classified under subheadings 3812.10.1000 and 3812.10.5000, HTSUS. Although the HTSUS and CAS numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2026–11001 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

[33] *See* 19 CFR 351.302.

[34] *See* 19 CFR 351.301; *see also Extension of Time Limits; Final Rule,* 78 FR 57790 (September 20, 2013) (*Time Limits Final Rule*), available at *https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22853.htm.*

[35] *See* section 782(b) of the Act.

[36] *See Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,* 78 FR 42678 (July 17, 2013) (*Final Rule*); *see also* frequently asked questions regarding the *Final Rule,* available at *https://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual_info_final_rule_FAQ_07172013.pdf.*

[37] *See Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,* 88 FR 67069 (September 29, 2023).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Applications for Inclusion on the Lists of Arbitrators Under the Data Privacy Framework Program

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on February 23, 2026, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

Title: Applications for Inclusion on the Lists of Arbitrators Under the Data Privacy Framework Program.

OMB Control Number: 0625–0281.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission, extension of a current information collection.

Number of Respondents: 30.

Average Hours per Response: 4 hours.

Burden Hours: 120 hours.

Needs and Uses: The United States, the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), and Switzerland share a commitment to enhancing privacy protection, the rule of law, and a recognition of the importance of transatlantic data flows to our respective citizens, economies, and societies, but take different approaches to doing so. Given those differences, the Department of Commerce (DOC) developed the EU–U.S. Data Privacy Framework (EU–U.S. DPF), the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. Data Privacy Framework (UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF), and the Swiss-U.S. Data Privacy Framework (Swiss-U.S. DPF) in consultation with the European Commission, the UK Government, the Swiss Federal Administration, industry, and other stakeholders. These arrangements were respectively developed to provide U.S. organizations reliable mechanisms for personal data transfers to the United States from the

European Union/European Economic Area, the United Kingdom (and, as applicable, Gibraltar), and Switzerland while ensuring data protection that is consistent with EU, UK, and Swiss law.

The DOC issued the EU–U.S. DPF Principles and the Swiss-U.S. DPF Principles, including the respective sets of Supplemental Principles (collectively the Principles) and Annex I of the Principles, as well as the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF under its statutory authority to foster, promote, and develop international commerce (15 U.S.C. 1512). The International Trade Administration (ITA) administers and supervises the Data Privacy Framework program, including by maintaining and making publicly available the Data Privacy Framework List, an authoritative list of U.S. organizations that have self-certified to the DOC and declared their commitment to adhere to the Principles pursuant to the EU–U.S. DPF and, as applicable, the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF, and/or the Swiss-U.S. DPF. While the decision by an organization to self-certify its compliance pursuant to the EU–U.S. DPF and, as applicable the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF, and/or the Swiss-U.S. DPF and by extension participate in the Data Privacy Framework program is voluntary; effective compliance is compulsory: organizations that self-certify to the DOC and publicly declare their commitment to adhere to the Principles must comply fully with the Principles. Such commitments to comply with the Principles are legally enforceable under U.S. law. On the basis of the Principles, Executive Order 14086, 28 CFR part 201, and accompanying letters and materials, including ITA's commitments regarding the administration and supervision of the Data Privacy Framework program, the European Commission, the UK Government, and the Swiss Federal Administration have respectively recognized the adequacy of the protection provided by the EU–U.S. DPF, the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF, and the Swiss-U.S. DPF thereby enabling personal data transfers from each respective jurisdiction to U.S. organizations participating in the relevant part of the Data Privacy Framework program.

As respectively described in Annex I of the EU–U.S. DPF Principles, the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF, and Annex I of the Swiss-U.S. DPF Principles the DOC commits separately with the European Commission, the UK Government, and the Swiss Federal Administration to implement an arbitration mechanism to provide EU, UK, and Swiss individuals with the ability under certain circumstances to invoke binding arbitration to determine, for residual claims, whether an organization has violated its obligations under the Principles as to those individuals. Organizations that self-certify their compliance pursuant to the EU–U.S. DPF, including those that also elect to participate in the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF are obligated to arbitrate claims and follow the terms as set forth in Annex I of the EU–U.S. DPF Principles, provided that an EU or UK (as applicable) individual has invoked binding arbitration by delivering notice to the organization at issue and following the procedures and subject to the conditions set forth in Annex I of the EU–U.S. DPF Principles. Organizations that self-certify their compliance pursuant to the Swiss-U.S. DPF are obligated to arbitrate claims and follow the terms as set forth in Annex I of the Swiss-U.S. DPF Principles, provided that a Swiss individual has invoked binding arbitration by delivering notice to the organization at issue and following the procedures and subject to the conditions set forth in Annex I of the Swiss-U.S. DPF Principles. An individual's decision to invoke this binding arbitration option is entirely voluntary. Arbitral decisions will be binding on all parties to the arbitration. Under this binding arbitration option, a panel (consisting of one or three arbitrators, as agreed by the parties) has the authority to impose individual-specific, non-monetary equitable relief (such as access, correction, deletion, or return of the individual's data in question) necessary to remedy the violation of the Principles only with respect to the individual. No damages, costs, fees, or other remedies are available. The parties will select the arbitrators from the list(s) of arbitrators described below.

Pursuant to the EU–U.S. DPF and the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF, the DOC and the European Commission have developed and will seek to maintain a list of at least 10 arbitrators. The parties, including the EU or UK individual who has invoked binding arbitration, will select arbitrators for the arbitration panel from that list of arbitrators developed under the EU–U.S. DPF (EU–U.S. DPF List of Arbitrators). To be eligible for inclusion on the EU–U.S. DPF List of Arbitrators, applicants must be admitted to practice law in the United States and be experts in U.S. privacy law, with expertise in EU data protection law; and shall not be subject to any instructions from, or be affiliated with, either party, or any participating organization, or the United States, European Union, or any EU Member State or any other governmental authority, public authority, or enforcement authority. Arbitrators will remain on the EU–U.S. DPF List of Arbitrators for a period of 3 years, absent exceptional circumstances or removal for cause, renewable by the DOC, with prior notification to the European Commission for additional 3-year terms.

Pursuant to the Swiss-U.S. DPF the DOC and the Swiss Federal Administration have developed and will seek to maintain a list of up to five arbitrators to supplement the list of arbitrators developed under the EU–U.S. DPF. The parties, including the Swiss individual who has invoked binding arbitration, will select arbitrators for the arbitration panel from the list of arbitrators developed under the EU–U.S. DPF, as supplemented by the list of arbitrators developed under the Swiss-U.S. DPF (Swiss-U.S. DPF Supplemental List of Arbitrators). To be eligible for inclusion on the Swiss-U.S. DPF Supplemental List of Arbitrators, applicants must be admitted to practice law in the United States and be experts in U.S. privacy law, with expertise in European or Swiss data protection law; and shall not be subject to any instructions from, or be affiliated with, either party, or any participating organization, or the United States, Switzerland, European Union, or any EU Member State or any other governmental authority, public authority, or enforcement authority. Arbitrators will remain on the Swiss-U.S. DPF Supplemental List of Arbitrators for a period of 3 years, absent exceptional circumstances or removal for cause, renewable by the DOC, with prior notification to the Swiss Federal Administration for additional 3-year terms.

Individuals interested in being considered for inclusion on the EU–U.S. DPF List of Arbitrators or the Swiss-U.S. DPF Supplemental List of Arbitrators would submit their applications to the DOC online via email at *dpf.program@trade.gov.*

The DOC has agreed with the European Commission to the adoption of arbitration rules that govern arbitration proceedings and a code of conduct for arbitrators under the EU–U.S. DPF (and similarly agreed with the UK Government as relates to arbitration proceedings under the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF), and the Swiss Federal Administration to the adoption of arbitration rules that govern arbitration proceedings and a code of conduct for arbitrators under the Swiss-U.S. DPF. In the event that the rules

governing the proceedings and/or the code of conduct for arbitrators need to be changed, the DOC and the European Commission and the Swiss Federal Administration will agree to amend those rules or adopt a different set of existing, well-established U.S. arbitral procedures, and/or amend the code of conduct for arbitrators (as applicable).

The DOC has selected the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR), the international division of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) (collectively ICDR–AAA) to administer arbitrations pursuant to and manage the arbitral fund identified in Annex I of the EU–U.S. DPF Principles, including as relates to the UK Extension to the EU–U.S. DPF, and Annex I of the Swiss-U.S. DPF Principles. Among other things, the ICDR–AAA facilitates arbitrator fee arrangements, including the collection and timely payment of arbitrator fees and other expenses.

Affected Public: Private individuals.

Frequency: Recurrent, depending on the number of arbitrators required to maintain active lists of arbitrators under the Data Privacy Framework Program.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: The DOC's statutory authority to foster, promote, and develop the foreign and domestic commerce of the United States (15 U.S.C. 1512).

This information collection request may be viewed at *www.reginfo.gov.* Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function and entering the title of the collection.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2026–10983 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; iEdison System

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Maureen O'Reilly, Management Analyst, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 1710, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 or by email to *PRANIST@nist.gov.* Please reference OMB Control Number 0693–0090 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Courtney Grate, Interagency and iEdison Specialist, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, 202–570–6769, *Courtney.grate@nistx'xc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Bayh-Dole Act (35 U.S.C. 18) and its implementing regulations (37 CFR 401) allow for recipients of federal research funding (Contractors) to retain ownership of inventions developed under federal funding agreements. In exchange, the government retains certain rights to the invention, including a world-wide right to use by or on behalf of the U.S. government. The law also requires the Contractor to obtain permission for certain actions and fulfill reporting requirements including:

a. Initial reporting of invention.

b. Decision to retain title to invention.

c. Filing of patent protection.

d. Evidence of government support clause within patents.

e. Submission of a license confirming the government's rights.

f. Notice if the Contractor is going to discontinue the pursuit or continuance of patent protection.

g. Information related to the development and utilization of invention.

h. Permission to assign to a third party; and

i. Permission to request waiver of domestic manufacturing requirements at agency's discretion under certain circumstances.

This information is used for a variety of reasons. It allows the government to identify technologies to which the government has rights to use without additional payment or licensing. This acts as a time and cost-saving mechanism to avoid unnecessary negotiating and payment. It allows agencies to track compliance with obligations, including the development and utilization of subject inventions. This data aids in the calculation of return on investment (ROI) from federal funding and identifies successful research programs. Also, it allows the government the opportunity to timely protect inventions which the Contractor declines title or discontinues patent protection. Many agencies utilize the iEdison system, managed by NIST, to collect this information. Agencies that do not register with iEdison are required to collect this information independently.

Proposed changes to iEdison include integration of the domestic manufacturing waiver form (OMB Control Number 0693–0103) into the iEdison system, additional patent application types, additional agreement types, and additional utilization report question for DOE-funded inventions. Integration of the domestic manufacturing waiver form into iEdison will allow recipients to streamline the waiver process and remain compliant under the domestic manufacturing requirements of the Bayh-Dole Act.

II. Method of Collection

Information will be electronically collected through the online system iEdison.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693–0090.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission, Revision.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,193.

Estimated Time Per Response:

Invention Records: 1.25 hours.

Patent Records: .75 hours.

Utilization Records: 25 minutes.

Domestic Manufacturing Waiver Requests: 13 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:

Invention Records: 15,098 hours.

Patent Records: 15,142 hours.

Utilization Records: 40,591 hours.

Domestic Manufacturing Waiver Requests: 282 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain benefits.

Legal Authority: The Bayh-Dole Act (35 U.S.C. 18) and its implementing regulations (37 CFR 401).

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2026–10947 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Solicitation of Nominations for Membership on the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of Solicitation of Nominations for Membership on the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board.

SUMMARY: NOAA seeks nominations to fill vacancies on the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB), which was established (per 33 U.S. Code § 3405) to advise NOAA leadership on priority areas for survey, discovery, and opportunities for extramural collaboration and partnerships; development of a 5-year strategic plan for the fields of ocean, marine, and Great Lakes science, exploration, and discovery; the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process; market barriers to development or commercialization of novel ocean mapping, exploration, and characterization products, processes, and tools; best practices to improve data management, processing, storage, and archiving standards; and other matters as requested by the NOAA Administrator. Members of the OEAB are appointed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator (hereinafter, Under Secretary), to assure balanced representation among preeminent scientists, engineers, educators, and science policy experts reflecting the breadth of NOAA's areas of responsibility. Membership will be open to individuals from academia; local, state or tribal government; industry; non-governmental not-for-profit organizations; and other ocean-related institutions. Race or sex shall not be considered in selection of OEAB members. The Under Secretary shall appoint OEAB members generally for three-year terms, renewable once for an additional term of up to three years. Members serve at the discretion of the Under Secretary.

DATES: Nominations should be sent to the email address specified below and must be received no more than 45 days after publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be directed to the Designated Federal Officer via email: *oceanexplorer@noaa.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Liz Tirpak, OEAB Designated Federal Officer via email: *oceanexplorer@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested persons may nominate themselves or others for OEAB membership. An application package is required for all candidates, including those nominated by third parties. The application package must include the following: (1) The nominee's full name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact information; (2) The nominee's area of industry perspective (academia, commercial service provider, or end-user); (3) A short description of qualifications relative to the advice solicited in this Notice; and (4) A current resume (maximum of four pages). The application package must be provided in a single email sent to the OEAB DFO at the electronic address provided above with the subject line ''Application for OEAB Membership 2026''.

Nikola Garber,

Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026–10971 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–KA–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF817]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notification; availability of an evaluation and recommended determination.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS received a Hatchery and Genetics Management Plan (HGMP) for a hatchery program rearing and releasing summer-run chum salmon in the Dungeness River basin, operated by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in collaboration with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe as co-managers. Following the public comment period this document serves to notify the public of the availability of an Evaluation and Recommended Determination Document (ERD) on implementing the proposed hatchery program the associated HGMP, which

concludes that it will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery nor modify or destroy critical habitat of Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, or Puget Sound steelhead.

DATES: June 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The document is available on the internet at *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/dungeness-hatcheries-plans.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Morgan Robinson, (253) 307–2670, *morgan.robinson@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species Act (ESA)-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

- Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated;
- Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated;
- Puget Sound Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated.

Background

The term ''take'' is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The ESA prohibits the take of endangered salmonids and, pursuant to ESA section 4(d), ESA regulations can be extended to prohibit the take of threatened salmonids. However, NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions for hatchery programs that are approved by NMFS under the limits on the prohibitions outlined in 50 CFR 223.203(b). The operators, WDFW collaborating with Tribal co-manager Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, have submitted an HGMP to NMFS pursuant to NMFS' limit 6 of the 4(d) rule of the ESA for hatchery activities in the Dungeness River basin, Washington. The ERD is NMFS' determination for how the HGMP addresses the criteria in 50 CFR 223.203(b)(5).

The hatchery program under review is designed to contribute to the reintroduction and recovery of Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon in the Dungeness River basin. This hatchery program is intended to contribute to fulfilling Federal trust responsibilities toward Tribes with rights guaranteed through treaties, as affirmed in *United States* v. *Washington* (1974), by contributing to the recovery of ESA-listed salmon. Included in the HGMP is research and monitoring activities to study the effect of the program on the recovery of Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, and Puget Sound steelhead.

As required in 50 CFR 223.203(b)(6), of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), exemption 6 of the section 4(d) rule for salmon and steelhead, the Secretary of Commerce published notice of NMFS' proposed evaluation and pending determination (PEPD) together with a discussion of the biological analysis underlying that determination. NMFS received no public comments on that PEPD.

Classification

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce may issue regulations for the conservation of listed threatened species. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to actions undertaken in compliance with a plan developed jointly by a State and a Tribe and determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.;* 16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*

Dated: May 29, 2026.

Jennifer Leigh Quan,

Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–11014 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF760]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Sparrows Point Container Terminal Project in Baltimore County, Maryland

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorizations.

SUMMARY: In accordance with regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued two consecutive incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs) to Tradepoint TiL Terminals, LLC (TTT) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Sparrows Point Container Terminal Project in Baltimore County, Maryland.

DATES: These authorizations are effective from June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027; and June 1, 2027, through May 31, 2028.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-tradepoint-til-terminal-llcs-sparrows-point-container-terminal.* In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cara Hotchkin, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

MMPA Background and Determinations

The MMPA prohibits the ''take'' of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Among the exceptions is section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) which directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed IHA.

Specifically, NMFS will issue an IHA if it finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other ''means of effecting the least [practicable] adverse impact'' on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as ''mitigation''). NMFS must also prescribe requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definitions of key terms, such as ''take,'' ''harassment,'' and ''negligible impact,'' can be found in the MMPA and the

NMFS' implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

On April 22, 2026, a notice of NMFS' proposal to issue two consecutive IHAs to TTT for take of marine mammals incidental to the Sparrows Point Container Terminal Project in Baltimore, MD was published in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 21400). In that notice, NMFS indicated the estimated numbers, type, and methods of incidental take proposed for each species or stock, as well as the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures that would be required should the IHAs be issued. The **Federal Register** notice also included analysis to support NMFS' preliminary conclusions and determinations that the IHAs, if issued, would satisfy the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for issuance of the IHAs. The **Federal Register** notice included web links to both draft IHAs for review, as well as other supporting documents.

No substantive comments were received during the public comment period. With the exception of the minor changes described below, there are no changes to the specified activity, the species taken, the proposed numbers, type, or methods of take, or the mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures in the proposed IHAs notice. No new information that would change any of the preliminary analyses, conclusions, or determinations in the proposed IHAs notice has become available since that notice was published, and therefore, the preliminary analyses, conclusions, and determinations included in the proposed IHAs are considered final.

Changes From the Proposed IHAs to the Final IHAs

Changes from the proposed IHAs to the final issued IHAs include clarifications of the monitoring and clearance zones, and addition of the largest predicted Level B harassment isopleth to the IHAs. The clearance zones listed in table 13 of the notice of proposed IHAs (91 FR 21400 at 21416) reflect the range of the modeled sound propagation after removal of the farthest 5 percent of points, and this radial distance encompasses at least 95 percent of the horizontal area exposed to sound at or above the 120 decibels (dB) referenced to 1 micropascal (re 1 µPa) root-mean-square (RMS) threshold. The maximum modeled distances exceed these clearance zones and for clarity, the maximum distances (table 1) have been added to the IHAs. With NMFS' concurrence, TTT will adjust the sizes of shutdown and clearance zones in year 2 as needed based on the results of hydroacoustic monitoring in year 1.

TABLE 1—SHUTDOWN, CLEARANCE AND LARGEST LEVEL B HARASSMENT ZONES DURING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity	Shutdown zone (m)	Clearance zone (m)	Largest Level B harassment zone (m)
Impact Installation	40	1,190	1,360
Vibratory installation	10	2,860	3,890

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216–6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.,* the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216–6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of this IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency ensures that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

Authorization

Accordingly, consistent with the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA, NMFS has issued two consecutive IHAs to TTT for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to Sparrows Point Container Terminal Project in Baltimore County, Maryland.

Dated: May 29, 2026.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–10981 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF759]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild Project in Baltimore, Maryland

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorizations.

SUMMARY: In accordance with regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued two consecutive incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs) to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild Project in Baltimore, Maryland.

DATES: These authorizations are effective from June 1, 2026, through

May 31, 2027, and June 1, 2027 through May 31, 2028.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-taking-marine-mammals-incidental-francis-scott-key-bridge.* In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cara Hotchkin, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

MMPA Background and Determinations

The MMPA prohibits the ''take'' of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Among the exceptions is section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) which directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed IHA.

Specifically, NMFS will issue an IHA if it finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other ''means of effecting the least [practicable] adverse impact'' on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as ''mitigation''). NMFS must also prescribe requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definitions of key terms, such as ''take,'' ''harassment,'' and ''negligible impact,'' can be found in the MMPA and the NMFS' implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

On April 22, 2026, a notice of NMFS' proposal to issue two consecutive IHAs to FHWA for take of marine mammals incidental to the Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild Project in Baltimore, Maryland was published in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 21425). In that notice, NMFS indicated the estimated numbers, type, and methods of incidental take proposed for each species or stock, as well as the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures that would be required should the IHAs be issued. The **Federal Register** notice also included analysis to support NMFS' preliminary conclusions and determinations that the IHAs, if issued, would satisfy the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for issuance of the IHAs. The **Federal Register** notice included web links to both draft IHAs for review, as well as other supporting documents.

No substantive comments were received during the public comment period. With the exception of the minor changes described below, there are no changes to the specified activity, the species taken, the proposed numbers, type, or methods of take, or the mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures in the proposed IHAs notice. No new information that would change any of the preliminary analyses, conclusions, or determinations in the proposed IHAs notice has become available since that notice was published, and therefore, the preliminary analyses, conclusions, and determinations included in the proposed IHAs are considered final.

Changes From the Proposed IHAs to the Final IHAs

Changes from the proposed IHAs to the final issued IHAs include clarifications related to hydroacoustic monitoring and results, and correction of a mathematical error. With respect to hydroacoustic monitoring, the notice of proposed IHAs indicated that measurements would be taken during driving of the first five piles of each size during both impact and vibratory driving (91 FR 21425 at 21444, April 22, 2026). FHWA has clarified that although efforts would be made to measure driving of the first five piles in isolation, it is possible that these measurements could include times when piles are also being driven elsewhere along the project corridor and thus have artificially increased background noise levels. With NMFS' concurrence, the FHWA will adjust the sizes of shutdown and clearance zones in year 2 as needed based on the results of hydroacoustic monitoring in year 1.

NMFS has also identified and corrected a mathematical error in Table 7 of the proposed IHA (91 FR 21425 at 21439, April 22, 2026). The predicted source value for the larger impact hammer was shown as 199 decibels (dB) referenced to 1 micropascal (re 1 μPa) root-mean-square (RMS), which had been calculated based on the preliminary measurements of the smaller impact hammer. The final measured source value for the smaller hammer is correct in the table, and the predicted source value for the larger hammer should be 200.4 dB re 1μPa RMS. This change does not affect the amount of authorized take because it results in only a very small increase in the size of the ensonified area on the 20 percent of construction days that the larger impact hammer is needed. This change does not affect the required shutdown zones, because the shutdown zones were based on measured distances during the test pile program rather than modeled source values and propagation ranges.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216–6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.,* the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216–6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of this IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency ensures that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

Authorization

Accordingly, consistent with the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA, NMFS has issued two consecutive IHAs to FHWA for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Francis Scott Key Bridge Rebuild Project in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dated: May 29, 2026.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–10974 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF825]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notification; availability of a proposed evaluation and pending determination for public comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received three Hatchery and Genetics Management Plans (HGMPs) for hatchery programs rearing and releasing chum salmon in the Skagit River watershed. The plans describe hatchery programs operated by the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), as co-managers. This notice provides an opportunity to comment on a Proposed Evaluation and Pending Determination (PEPD) document on implementing the proposed hatchery programs and associated findings.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on July 2, 2026. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

ADDRESSES: The HGMP for the WDFW hatchery program is available online concurrently while the comment period for the PEPD is open at: *https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/hatcheries/hgmp#comment.*

The HGMP for the Upper Skagit Hatchery chum salmon program is available online concurrently while the comment period for the PEPD is open at: *https://upperskagittribe-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Upper_Skagit_Chum_HGMP_150826.pdf.* The HGMP for the Sauk River chum salmon hatchery program is available online concurrently while the comment period for the PEPD is open at: *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/three-hatchery-and-genetic-management-plans-skagit-river-watershed-chum-salmon.*

You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2025–0834, by electronic submission:

- *Electronic submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit *https://www.regulations.gov* and type NOAA–NMFS–2025–0834 in the Search box. Click on the ''Comment'' icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *https://www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address, *etc.*), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

The document available for public comment is available on the internet at *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/three-hatchery-and-genetic-management-plans-skagit-river-watershed-chum-salmon.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Morgan Robinson, (253) 307–2670, *morgan.robinson@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species Act (ESA)-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

- Puget Sound Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated;
- Puget Sound Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated.

Background

The term ''take'' is defined under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The ESA prohibits the take of endangered salmonids and, pursuant to ESA section 4(d), ESA regulations can be extended to prohibit the take of threatened salmonids. However, NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions for hatchery programs that are approved by NMFS under the limits on the prohibitions outlined in 50 CFR 223.203(b). The operators have submitted HGMPs to NMFS pursuant to NMFS' Limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule of the ESA for hatchery activities in the Skagit River watershed, Washington. The PEPD is NMFS' initial determination for how the HGMP addresses the criteria in 50 CFR 223.203(b)(5).

The hatchery programs under review are harvest augmentation programs and support Tribal treaty fishing rights. These hatchery programs are intended to contribute to fulfilling Federal trust responsibilities toward Tribes with rights guaranteed through treaties, as affirmed in *United States* v. *Washington* (1974), by contributing to salmon harvests. Included in the HGMPs are research and monitoring activities to study the effect of the programs on Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead.

Classification

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as deemed necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to actions undertaken in compliance with a plan developed jointly by a state and a tribe and determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.;* 16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Jennifer Leigh Quan,

Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–10980 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket Nos.: 260513–0131]

XRIN 0648–XA004

Deep Seabed Mining: Notice of Receipt of Application for Deep Seabed Mining Exploration Licenses and Announcement of Public Comment Period and Virtual Public Hearing

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for deep seabed mining exploration licenses; request for comments; notice of virtual public hearing.

SUMMARY: NOAA has received an application for a license to conduct seabed mining exploration activities that is fully compliant with the applicable information requirements of the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act (DSHMRA or the Act) and the Act's implementing regulations. As part of the application review process, NOAA will hold one virtual public hearing on American Deep Sea Minerals, Inc.'s (ADSM) application and will accept written comments on the application submitted electronically via the instructions below.

DATES: Comments on the application must be received by August 3, 2026. The virtual public hearing is scheduled for July 1, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Instructions for attending the virtual public hearing are provided below.

ADDRESSES: The ADSM application is electronically available at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-0892.* You may send comments, identified by docket number, by either of the following means:

Written Comments

Submit all public written comments on ADSM's Application via the Federal *regulations.gov* e-Portal at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-0892* or go to *www.regulations.gov* and enter ''NOAA–NOS–2026–0892'' in the search bar.

Comments must be submitted by the date and electronic method described below to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NOAA. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. Comments that are not related to the application or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will not be considered. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, comments must be submitted in English. Comments that are not submitted in English may not be posted to the public dockets on *regulations.gov* or considered by NOAA. All relevant comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Virtual Public Hearings

You may submit oral comments on ADSM's Application during the July 1, 2026 meeting.

NOAA will conduct a virtual public hearing via Adobe Connect. Each person who wants to attend the virtual public hearing must electronically register by June 29, 2026, 5 p.m. ET. Attendance at the virtual public hearing will be limited to 1,000 individuals. Any person who registers and wants to speak at a virtual public hearing should indicate that they want to speak during registration. To register for either hearing, use the following link: *https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/emfv1sxqp0tr/event/event_info.html.* Each registered participant will receive an Adobe Connect link for the virtual public hearing.

Once the virtual public hearing starts, NOAA will describe the virtual public hearing logistics. NOAA will then start the public comment part of the virtual public hearing and will call on speakers on a first come/first served basis through the raised hand function of Adobe Connect. NOAA will then unmute the person speaking. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak on the ADSM application. If a speaker does not respond when they are called on, NOAA will move to the next speaker. At the three-minute mark for each speaker, NOAA will mute that speaker. Speakers cannot allot their time to another speaker. Once all speakers have spoken or at the scheduled end of the virtual public hearing, whichever is earlier, NOAA will end the virtual public hearing. NOAA retains discretion to extend the virtual public hearing if appropriate and feasible. NOAA will record the hearing and will include transcripts of the hearing on the public docket for the ADSM application on the *regulations.gov* website at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-0892.* The names provided by each speaker will also be published as part of the transcripts.

The virtual public hearing does not replace the process for submission of written comments. NOAA will not respond during the hearing to oral comments or questions. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, oral comments must be in English. Comments that are not in English may not be transcribed or considered by NOAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Cole, 301–233–2998, *bryan.cole@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 2, 2026, NOAA received an amended application from ADSM for a license to conduct seabed mining exploration activities within the seabed area beyond national jurisdiction in the South Penrhyn Basin of the South Pacific Ocean. NOAA has determined that the application is fully compliant with the applicable information requirements of the Act and its implementing regulations. Under DSHMRA, NOAA shall publish notice of all license applications and, subject to applicable public disclosure limitations, interested persons are afforded the opportunity to examine the relevant application materials and to submit written and oral comments to NOAA. NOAA has determined that the ADSM application is the relevant material for examination during the notice of application. 30 U.S.C. 1426(a)(1). This application is electronically available at the location listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please note that the statements made in the application do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the views of the U.S. Government.

(Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1426(a)(1).)

Neil A. Jacobs,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026–10975 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2026–SCC–1950]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Upward Bound (UB) Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) Annual Performance Report

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use *http://www.regulations.gov* by searching the Docket ID number ED–2026–SCC–1950. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *http://www.regulations.gov* by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the regulations.gov site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at *ICDocketMgr@ed.gov.* Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave SW, LBJ, Room 5B145, Washington, DC 20202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Marie Julienne, 202–987–1054.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Upward Bound (UB) Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) Annual Performance Report.

OMB Control Number: 1840–0831.

Type of Review: An extension without change of a currently approved ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Private Sector *Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 1,244.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 21,148.

Abstract: The purpose of the Upward Bound (UB) and Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) Program is to generate in the program's participants the skills and motivation necessary to complete a program of secondary education and to enter and succeed in a program of postsecondary education.

Authority for this program is contained in Title IV, Part A, Subpart 2, Chapter 1, Section 402C of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, public or private agencies, or organizations, including community-based organizations with experience in serving disadvantaged youth, secondary schools, and combinations of institutions, agencies, organizations and secondary schools.

The UB and UBMS Program's participants must be potential first-generation college students, low-income individuals, or individuals who have high risk of academic failure and have a need for academic support in order to pursue successfully a program of education beyond high school. Required services of the UB–UBMS Program include: (1) academic tutoring; (2) advice and assistance in secondary and postsecondary course selection; (3) preparation for college entrance exams and completing college admission applications; (4) information on federal student financial aid programs including (a) Federal Pell grant awards, (b) loan forgiveness, and (c) scholarships; (5) assistance completing financial aid applications; (6) guidance and assistance in: (a) secondary school reentry, (b) alternative programs for secondary school drop outs that lead to the receipt of a regular secondary school diploma, (c) entry into general educational development (GED) programs or (d) entry into postsecondary education; and (7) education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students or the students' parents, including financial planning for postsecondary education. (8) Also, projects funded for at least two years under the program must provide instruction in mathematics through pre-calculus; laboratory science; foreign language; composition; and literature.

Ross Santy,

Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2026–10999 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2026–SCC–1948]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC) Annual Performance Report

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use *http://www.regulations.gov* by searching the Docket ID number ED–2026–SCC–1948. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *http://www.regulations.gov* by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the *regulations.gov* site is not available to the public for any reason,

the Department will temporarily accept comments at *ICDocketMgr@ed.gov.* Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave SW, LBJ, Room 5B145, Washington, DC 20202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Marie Julienne, 202–987–1054.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC) Annual Performance Report.

OMB Control Number: 1840–0830.

Type of Review: An extension without change of a currently approved ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Private Sector.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 160.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,280.

Abstract: The Department of Education (ED) collects Annual Performance Reports (APRs) from Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) grantees under the authority of Title IV, Part A, Subpart 2, Division 1, Sections 402A and 402B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, the program regulations in 34 CFR 644, and the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR 74.51, 75.720, and 75.732. The information that grantees submit in their APRs allows ED to annually assess each grantee's progress in meeting their project's approved goals and objectives. The APR data that grantees submit are compared with the projects' approved objectives to determine the projects' accomplishments, to make decisions regarding whether funding should be continued, and to award ''prior experience'' points. The regulations for this program provide for awarding up to 15 points for prior experience (34 CR 644.22). During a competition for new grant awards, the prior experience points are added to the average of the peer reviewers' scores to arrive at a total score for each application. Funding recommendations and decisions are primarily based on the rank order of applications on the slate; therefore, assessment of prior experience points, based on data in the annual performance report, is a crucial part of the overall application process.

Further, this performance report form is the main source of data for the Department's response to the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) for this program. In addition, the Department uses the annual performance reports to produce program level data for annual reporting, budget submissions to OMB, Congressional hearings and inquiries, and responding to inquiries from higher education interest groups and the general public.

EOC APRs are prepared and submitted by EOC grant projects. For each EOC grant project, the grant project director of record completes, or supervises the completion of the data submission process. The grant project director supervises the administration of an EOC grant. An EOC grant provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process. The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

Ross Santy,

Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2026–10998 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Federal Need Analysis Methodology for the 2027–28 Award Year—Federal Pell Grant, Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan, and TEACH Grant Programs

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces the annual updates to the tables used in the statutory Federal Need Analysis Methodology (Need Analysis) that determines a student's Student Aid Index (SAI) for award year (AY) 2027–28 for student financial aid programs, Assistance Listing Numbers (ALN) 84.007, 84.033, 84.063, 84.268, and 84.379. The intent of this notice is to alert the financial aid community and the broader public to these required annual updates used in the determination of student aid eligibility.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Hall Lewis. Telephone: (202) 453–6519. Email: *Heather.HallLewis@ed.gov.*

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Part F of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), specifies the criteria, data elements, calculations, and tables that make up the Need Analysis.

Section 478 of the HEA requires the Secretary to annually update the following five tables for inflation: the Income Protection Allowance (IPA), the Adjusted Net Worth (NW) of a Business or Farm, the Asset Protection Allowance, the Assessment Schedules and Rates, and the Employment Expense Allowance. The updates are based, in general, upon increases in items such as, but not limited to, the Consumer Price Index.

The Secretary updates the above tables to account for inflation that took place between April 2020 and April in the year prior to the beginning of each award year. The increases in the tables must be based on a percentage equal to

the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for April of the applicable year.

This notice includes the 2027–28 AY values for the tables in sections 1 (Income Protection Allowance), 2 (Adjusted Net Worth of a Business or Farm), 3 (Asset Protection Allowance), 4 (Assessment Schedules and Rates), and 5 (Employment Expense Allowance).

1. Income Protection Allowance (IPA). This allowance is the amount of living expenses associated with the maintenance of an individual or family that offset the family's income. The allowance varies by family size and marital status. The IPA for dependent students is $12,220. The IPAs for parents of dependent students and independent students are listed in the tables below.

PARENTS OF DEPENDENT STUDENTS

Family size	Income protection allowance
2	$30,300
3	37,720
4	46,590
5	54,970
6	64,290

For each additional family member, add $7,260.

MARRIED INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE

Family size	Income protection allowance
3	$59,930
4	74,000
5	87,320
6	102,120

For each additional family member, add $11,530.

SINGLE INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE

Family size	Income protection allowance
2	$57,050
3	71,040
4	87,700
5	103,500
6	121,030

For each additional family member, add $13,680.

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE

Marital status	Income protection allowance
Single	$19,000
Married	30,470

2. Adjusted Net Worth (NW) of a Business or Farm. A portion of the full NW (assets less debts) of a business or farm is excluded from the calculation of an SAI because (1) the income produced from these assets is already assessed in another part of the formula; and (2) the formula protects a portion of the value of the assets.

The portion of these assets included in the contribution calculation is computed according to the following schedule. This schedule is used for parents of dependent students, independent students without dependents other than a spouse, and independent students with dependents other than a spouse.

ADJUSTED NET WORTH OF A BUSINESS OR FARM

If the NW of a business or farm is:	Then the adjusted NW is:
Less than $1	$0.
$1 to $180,000	$0 + 40% of NW.
$180,001 to $540,000	$72,000 + 50% of NW over $180,000.
$540,001 to $905,000	$252,000 + 60% of NW over $540,000.
$905,001 or more	$471,000 + 100% of NW over $905,000.

3. Asset Protection Allowance (APA). This allowance protects a portion of NW (assets less debts) from being considered available for postsecondary educational expenses. There is one asset protection allowance table for parents of dependent students, independent students with dependents other than a spouse, and independent students without dependents other than a spouse.

PARENTS OF DEPENDENT STUDENTS, INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE, AND INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE

If the age of the older parent or the independent student is:	And the older parent or the independent student is:	
	Married	Single
	Then the allowance is:	
25 or less	0	0
26	0	0
27	0	0
28	0	0
29	0	0
30	0	0
31	0	0
32	0	0
33	0	0
34	0	0

PARENTS OF DEPENDENT STUDENTS, INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE, AND INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE—Continued

If the age of the older parent or the independent student is:	And the older parent or the independent student is:	
	Married	Single
	Then the allowance is:	
35	0	0
36	0	0
37	0	0
38	0	0
39	0	0
40	0	0
41	0	0
42	0	0
43	0	0
44	0	0
45	0	0
46	0	0
47	0	0
48	0	0
49	0	0
50	0	0
51	0	0
52	0	0
53	0	0
54	0	0
55	0	0
56	0	0
57	0	0
58	0	0
59	0	0
60	0	0
61	0	0
62	0	0
63	0	0
64	0	0
65 or older	0	0

4. Assessment Schedules and Rates. Two schedules that are subject to updates—one for parents of dependent students and one for independent students with dependents other than a spouse—are used to further limit how much of the family financial resources are considered to go toward educational expenses. For dependent students, the SAI is derived from an assessment of the parents' adjusted available income (AAI). For independent students with dependents other than a spouse, the SAI is derived from an assessment of the family's AAI. The AAI represents a measure of a family's financial strength, which considers both income and assets.

The contribution of parents of dependent students, and independent students with dependents other than a spouse, is computed according to the following schedule:

ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABLE INCOME

If AAI is	Then the contribution is
Less than − $8,900	− $1,958
− $8,900 to $22,600	22% of AAI.
$22,601 to $28,300	$4,972 + 25% of AAI over $22,600.
$28,301 to $34,000	$6,397 + 29% of AAI over $28,300.
$34,001 to $39,900	$8,050 + 34% of AAI over $34,000.
$39,901 to $45,600	$10,056 + 40% of AAI over $39,900.
$45,601 or more	$12,336 + 47% of AAI over $45,600.

5. Employment Expense Allowance. This allowance for employment-related expenses recognizes additional expenses incurred by working individuals. For parents of dependent students, the employment expense allowance is the lesser of $5,200 or 35% of the total earned income of the student's parent and parent's spouse, if applicable. The employment expense allowance for independent students with dependents other than a spouse is also the lesser of $5,200 or 35% of the combined earned income for the student and student spouse, if applicable. The allowance is the same for independent students without dependents other than a spouse if they are married, but if they are not married, the allowance is zero.

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR**

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or another accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at *www.govinfo.gov.* At this site, you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at *www.federalregister.gov.* Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1087kk *et seq.*

Wayne Sullivan,

Acting Principal Deputy Chief, Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

[FR Doc. 2026–10986 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Savannah River Site

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an in-person/livestreamed meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Savannah River Site. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Tuesday, July 21, 2026; 9 a.m.–4 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, 4345 Trolley Line Road, Aiken, South Carolina 29801. This meeting will be held in-person at the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative and streamed on YouTube, no registration is necessary. The link for the livestream can be found on the following website: *https://www.youtube.com/@SRSCAB/streams.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Tanner, Office of External Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, SC 29802; Phone: (803) 646–2167; or Email: *james.tanner@srs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: At the request of the Assistant Secretary or Field Managers, the Board may provide community-based advice and recommendations concerning any EM program activities, such as clean-up activities and environmental restoration; waste management and disposition; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship; communications; and budget priorities. The Board also provides an avenue to fulfill public participation requirements outlined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Federal Facility Agreements, Consent Orders, Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements.

Tentative Agenda: (agenda topics are subject to change; please contact Juanita Campbell at *juanita.campbell@srs.gov* for the most current agenda)

- Chair Update
- Agency Updates
- Program Presentations to the Board
- Board Business
- Public Comments

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public and public comment can be given orally or in writing. Fifteen minutes are allocated during the meeting for public comment and those wishing to make oral comment will be given a minimum of two minutes to speak. Written comments received at least two working days prior to the meeting will be provided to the members and included in the meeting minutes. Written comments received within two working days after the meeting will be included in the minutes. For additional information on public comment and to submit written comment, please contact *srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov.* The EM SSAB, Savannah River Site, welcomes the attendance of the public at its meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact *srscitizensadvisoryboard@srs.gov* at least seven days in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Conduct: The Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Questioning of board members or presenters by the public is not permitted.

Minutes: Minutes will be available at the following website: www.*cab.srs.gov.*

Signing Authority: This document of the Department of Energy was signed on May 28, 2026, by David Borak, Committee Management Officer, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 28, 2026.

Jennifer Hartzell,

Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2026–10970 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission has received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Filings Instituting Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP26–871–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: 5.28.26 Negotiated Rates—Castleton Commodities Merchant Trading L.P. H–4010–89 to be effective 6/1/2026.

Filed Date: 5/28/26.

Accession Number: 20260528–5011.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–872–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: 5.28.26 Negotiated Rates—DTE Energy Trading, Inc. H–1830–89 to be effective 6/1/2026.

Filed Date: 5/28/26.

Accession Number: 20260528–5015.

*Comment Date:*5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–873–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: 5.28.26 Negotiated Rates—Freepoint Commodities LLC H–7250–89 to be effective 6/1/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5018.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.
Docket Numbers: RP26–874–000.
Applicants: Equitrans, L.P.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: Amended Negotiated Rate Agreement—6/1/2026 to be effective 6/1/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5033.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.
Docket Numbers: RP26–875–000.
Applicants: Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: Amended NRAs—Florida Power & Light Company to be effective 6/1/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5065.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.
Docket Numbers: RP26–876–000.
Applicants: Cheyenne Plains Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.
Description: § 4(d) Rate Filing: Negotiated Rate Agreement Filing (UET) to be effective 6/1/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5106.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

Filings in Existing Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP20–614–009.
Applicants: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC.
Description: Compliance filing: RP20–614 Petition to Amend Settlement to be effective N/A.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5100.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.
Docket Numbers: RP20–618–004.
Applicants: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC.
Description: Compliance filing: RP20–618 Petition to Amend Settlement to be effective N/A.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5101.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.
Docket Numbers: RP26–257–002
Applicants: Alliance Pipeline L.P.
Description: Compliance filing: Motion to Place Suspended Revised Tariff Records into Effect to be effective 6/1/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26
Accession Number: 20260528–5075.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/9/26.

Any person desiring to protest in any the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rule 211 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (*https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp*) by querying the docket number.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf.* For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10991 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No(s). CP26–9–001, CP26–9–000]

UGI Auburn, LLC, UGI Auburn Gathering, LLC; Notice of Amendment of Application and Establishing Intervention Deadline

Take notice that on May 18, 2026, UGI Auburn, LLC (Auburn) and UGI Auburn Gathering, LLC (Gathering), 835 Knitting Mills Way, Wyomissing, PA 19610, filed an amendment to its application in Docket No. CP26–9–000, pursuant to section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Part 157 and 284 of the Commission's regulations requesting authorization to amend its proposed Capacity Lease Project (Project) that was filed on October 10, 2025. Specifically, Auburn is amending the application to increase the quantity of capacity leased from Gathering from 281,970 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) to 311,970 Dth/d, and to add an additional primary receipt point at the existing Energy Transfer LP interconnection with the Gathering System for the Auburn Interstate Pipeline Project. The Auburn Interstate Pipeline Project consists of approximately 45-miles of 12, 20, and 24-inch-diameter of existing natural gas pipeline located in Susquehanna, Wyoming, and Luzerne Counties, Pennsylvania. The Project will provide open access firm and interruptible interstate natural gas transportation service. The proposed Project amendment does not include new construction or costs, as it proposes to utilize existing infrastructure, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (*http://www.ferc.gov*). From the Commission's Home Page on the internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's website during normal business hours from FERC Online Support at (202) 502–6652 (toll free at 1–866–208–3676) or email at *ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov,* or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502–8371, TTY (202) 502–8659. Email the Public Reference Room at *public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.*

Any questions regarding the proposed project should be directed to Randall S. Rich, Pierce Atwood LLP, 1717 K Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006, by phone at (202) 530–6424 or by email at *rrich@pierceatwood.com.*

Pursuant to section 157.9 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure,[1] within 90 days of this Notice the Commission staff will either: complete its environmental review and place it into the Commission's public record (eLibrary) for this proceeding; or issue a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review. If a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review is issued, it will indicate, among other milestones, the anticipated date for the Commission staff's issuance of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) or environmental assessment (EA) for

[1] 18 CFR 157.9.

this proposal. The filing of an EA in the Commission's public record for this proceeding or the issuance of a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review will serve to notify federal and state agencies of the timing for the completion of all necessary reviews, and the subsequent need to complete all federal authorizations within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff's FEIS or EA.

Public Participation

There are three ways to become involved in the Commission's review of this project: you can file comments on the project, you can protest the filing, and you can file a motion to intervene in the proceeding. There is no fee or cost for filing comments or intervening. The deadline for filing a motion to intervene is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 18, 2026. How to file protests, motions to intervene, and comments is explained below.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation (OPP) at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Comments

Any person wishing to comment on the project may do so. Comments may include statements of support or objections, to the project as a whole or specific aspects of the project. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be.

Protests

Pursuant to sections 157.10(a)(4)[2] and 385.211[3] of the Commission's regulations under the NGA, any person[4] may file a protest to the application. Protests must comply with the requirements specified in section 385.2001[5] of the Commission's regulations. A protest may also serve as a motion to intervene so long as the protestor states it also seeks to be an intervenor.

To ensure that your comments or protests are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 18, 2026.

There are three methods you can use to submit your comments or protests to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the Project docket number CP26–9–0001 and CP26–9–000 in your submission.

(1) You may file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website at *www.ferc.gov* under the link to Documents and Filings. Using eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You may file your comments or protests electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (*www.ferc.gov*) under the link to Documents and Filings. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on ''eRegister.'' You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; first select ''General'' and then select ''Comment on a Filing''; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments or protests by mailing them to the following address below. Your written comments must reference the Project docket number (CP26–9–0001 and CP26–9–000).

To file via USPS: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

To file via any other courier: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments (options 1 and 2 above) and has eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502–8258 or *FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.*

Persons who comment on the environmental review of this project will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, and will receive notification when the environmental documents (EA or EIS) are issued for this project and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process.

The Commission considers all comments received about the project in determining the appropriate action to be taken. However, the filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. To become a party, you must intervene in the proceeding. For instructions on how to intervene, see below.

Interventions

Any person, which includes individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and other entities,[6] has the option to file a motion to intervene in this proceeding. Only intervenors have the right to request rehearing of Commission orders issued in this proceeding and to subsequently challenge the Commission's orders in the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal.

To intervene, you must submit a motion to intervene to the Commission in accordance with Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure[7] and the regulations under the NGA[8] by the intervention deadline for the project, which is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 18, 2026. As described further in Rule 214, your motion to intervene must state, to the extent known, your position regarding the proceeding, as well as your interest in the proceeding. For an individual, this could include your status as a landowner, ratepayer, resident of an impacted community, or recreationist. You do not need to have property directly impacted by the project in order to intervene. For more information about motions to intervene, refer to the FERC website at *https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to/intervene.asp.*

There are two ways to submit your motion to intervene. In both instances, please reference the Project docket number CP26–9–0001 and CP26–9–000 in your submission.

(1) You may file your motion to intervene by using the Commission's eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (*www.ferc.gov*) under the link to Documents and Filings. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on ''eRegister.'' You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; first select ''General'' and then select ''Intervention.'' The eFiling feature includes a document-less intervention option; for more information, visit *https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/document-less-intervention.pdf.;* or

(2) You can file a paper copy of your motion to intervene, along with three copies, by mailing the documents to the address below. Your motion to intervene must reference the Project docket number CP26–9–0001 and CP26–9–000.

To file via USPS: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

To file via any other courier: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225

[2] 18 CFR 157.10(a)(4).

[3] 18 CFR 385.211.

[4] Persons include individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and other entities. 18 CFR 385.102(d).

[5] 18 CFR 385.2001.

[6] 18 CFR 385.102(d).

[7] 18 CFR 385.214.

[8] 18 CFR 157.10.

Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

The Commission encourages electronic filing of motions to intervene (option 1 above) and has eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502–8258 or *FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.*

Protests and motions to intervene must be served on the applicant either by mail at: Randall S. Rich, Pierce Atwood LLP, 1717 K Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006 or by email (with a link to the document) at *rrich@pierceatwood.com.* Any subsequent submissions by an intervenor must be served on the applicant and all other parties to the proceeding. Contact information for parties can be downloaded from the service list at the eService link on FERC Online. Service can be via email with a link to the document.

All timely, unopposed [9] motions to intervene are automatically granted by operation of Rule 214(c)(1).[10] Motions to intervene that are filed after the intervention deadline are untimely, and may be denied. Any late-filed motion to intervene must show good cause for being late and must explain why the time limitation should be waived and provide justification by reference to factors set forth in Rule 214(d) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations.[11] A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies (paper or electronic) of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties.

Tracking the proceeding

Throughout the proceeding, additional information about the project will be available from OPP at (202) 502–6595 or on the FERC website at *www.ferc.gov* using the ''eLibrary'' link as described above. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. For more information and to register, go to *www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.*

[9] The applicant has 15 days from the submittal of a motion to intervene to file a written objection to the intervention.

[10] 18 CFR 385.214(c)(1).

[11] 18 CFR 385.214(b)(3) and (d).

Intervention Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 18, 2026.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10989 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IN79–6–000]

FERC Form 580, Interrogatories on Fuel and Energy Purchase Practices; Notice of Request for Partial Waiver

Take notice that on May 22, 2026, pursuant to Rule 207(a)(5) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure,[1] Sierra Pacific Power Company submitted a request for a partial waiver of the requirement to respond to the 2026 FERC Form 580 Interrogatory on Fuel and Energy Purchase Practices, as more fully explained in the request.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (*http://www.ferc.gov*). From the Commission's Home Page on the internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

[1] 18 CFR 385.207.

User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's website during normal business hours from FERC Online Support at 202–502–6652 (toll free at 1–866–208–3676) or email at *ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov,* or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502–8371, TTY (202) 502–8659. Email the Public Reference Room at *public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.*

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the ''eFiling'' link at *http://www.ferc.gov.* Persons unable to file electronically may mail similar pleadings to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on June 12, 2026.

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10990 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric corporate filings:

Docket Numbers: EC26–102–000.

Applicants: Pathfinder Power, LLC, Calpine Bethlehem, LLC, Calpine Mid Merit, LLC, Calpine Mid-Merit II, LLC, First State Generation, LLC.

Description: Joint Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of Calpine Bethlehem, LLC, et al.

Filed Date: 5/22/26.

Accession Number: 20260522–5296.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/21/26.

Docket Numbers: 26–103–000.

Applicants: Hollis Creek PV I, LLC, Cleco Power LLC.

Description: Joint Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of Hollis Creek PV I, LLC, et al.

Filed Date: 5/26/26.

Accession Number: 20260526–5280.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/16/26.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

Docket Numbers: ER26–2661–000.
Applicants: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated.
Description: Tariff Amendment: Notice of Cancellation of SA No. 3440 to be effective 7/1/2024.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5004.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2662–000.
Applicants: PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
Description: Tariff Amendment: Notice of Cancellation of WMPA, SA No. 7318; Project Identifier No. AG1–469 to be effective 7/28/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5005.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2663–000.
Applicants: PacifiCorp.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: BPA Non-Conforming PTP SA 656, Rev 6 (Lost Creek) to be effective 5/1/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5017.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2664–000.
Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: 2026–05–28_SA 4772 ATC-Cloverland Electric GIA (S1015) to be effective 5/14/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5046.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2665–000.
Applicants: LS Power Grid California, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: LS Power Grid CA Formula Rate Filing to be effective 7/28/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5130.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2666–000.
Applicants: Escalante Solar I, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Filing of Second Amendment to Shared Facilities Agreement to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 0260528–5136.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2667–000
Applicants: Enterprise Solar, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Filing of Second Amendment to Shared Facilities Agreement to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5137.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2668–000.
Applicants: Granite Mountain Solar East, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Filing of Second Amendment to Shared Facilities Agreement to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5138.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2669–000.
Applicants: Iron Springs Solar, LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Filing of Second Amendment to Shared Facilities Agreement to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5140.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2670–000.
Applicants: Idaho Power Company.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Fifth Revised Service Agreement No. 305 to be effective 8/1/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5170.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.
Docket Numbers: ER26–2671–000.
Applicants: Alle-Catt Wind Energy LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: MBR Tariff Revision to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5193.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2672–000.
Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: 2026–05–28_SA 4773 ATC-We Energies GIA (S1090) to be effective 5/15/2026.
Filed Date:5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5204.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2673–000.
Applicants: Enterprise Storage LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5225.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2674–000.
Applicants: Granite Mountain BESS East LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5227.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–2675–000.
Applicants: Arizona Public Service Company.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Service Agreement Nos. 446, 447 & 448 to be effective 4/28/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5230.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26

Docket Numbers: ER26–2677–000.
Applicants: Iron Springs BESS LLC.
Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence to be effective 5/29/2026.
Filed Date: 5/28/26.
Accession Number: 20260528–5232.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 6/18/26.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (*https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp*) by querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf.* For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10992 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 4349–033]

EONY Generation Limited; Notice of Reasonable Period of Time for Water Quality Certification Application

On May 26, 2026, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (New York DEC) submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) notice that it received a request for a Clean Water Act section 401(a)(1) water

quality certification as defined in 40 CFR 121.5, from EONY Generation Limited, in conjunction with the above captioned project on May 22, 2026. Pursuant to section 4.34(b)(5) of the Commission's regulations,[1] we hereby notify New York DEC of the following dates.

Date of Receipt of the Certification Request: May 22, 2026.

Reasonable Period of Time to Act on the Certification Request: One year, May 22, 2027.

If New York DEC fails or refuses to act on the water quality certification request on or before the above date, then the certifying authority is deemed waived pursuant to section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341(a)(1).

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10987 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CD26–3–000]

City of Inglewood, California; Notice of Preliminary Determination of a Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility and Soliciting Comments and Motions To Intervene

On May 26, 2026, the City of Inglewood, California, filed a notice of intent to construct a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, pursuant to section 30 of the Federal Power Act (FPA). The proposed North Inglewood Hydroelectric Energy Recovery Project would have an installed capacity of 149 kilowatts (kW) and would be located within the applicant's water supply system in Inglewood, Los Angeles County, California.

Applicant Contact: Gregg Semler, InPipe Energy, 830 NE Holladay St., Portland, Oregon 97232, 503–341–004, *gregg@inpipeenergy.com.*

FERC Contact: Christopher Chaney, 202–502–6778, *christopher.chaney@ferc.gov.*

Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility Description: The project would consist of: (1) two turbine generating units with a total capacity of 149 kW, and (2) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an estimated annual generation of approximately 928 megawatt-hours.

A qualifying conduit hydropower facility is one that is determined or deemed to meet all the criteria shown in the table below.

TABLE 1—CRITERIA FOR QUALIFYING CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY

Statutory provision	*Description*	*Satisfies (Y/N)*
FPA 30(a)(3)(A)	The conduit the facility uses is a tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(i)	The facility is constructed, operated, or maintained for the generation of electric power and uses for such generation only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(ii)	The facility has an installed capacity that does not exceed 40 megawatts	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(iii)	On or before August 9, 2013, the facility is not licensed, or exempted from the licensing requirements of Part I of the FPA.	Y

Preliminary Determination: The proposed North Inglewood Hydroelectric Energy Recovery Project will not alter the primary purpose of the conduit, which is for municipal consumption. Therefore, based upon the above criteria, Commission staff preliminarily determines that the operation of the project described above satisfies the requirements for a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, which is not required to be licensed or exempted from licensing.

Comments and Motions to Intervene: Deadline for filing comments, comments contesting whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria, and motions to intervene: June 29, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Anyone may submit comments or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210 and 385.214. Any motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular proceeding.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents: All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the ''COMMENTS,'' ''COMMENTS CONTESTING QUALIFICATION FOR A CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY,'' or ''MOTION TO INTERVENE,'' as applicable; (2) state in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 385.2001 through 385.2005 of the Commission's regulations.[1] All comments contesting Commission staff's preliminary determination that the facility meets the qualifying criteria must set forth their evidentiary basis.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and comments using the Commission's eFiling system at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp.* Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp.* You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov,* (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may send a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room

[1] 18 CFR 4.34(b)(5).

[1] 18 CFR 385.2001–2005 (2025).

1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

Locations of Notice of Intent: The Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's website at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp.* Enter the docket number (*i.e.,* CD26–3) in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp* to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. Copies of the notice of intent can be obtained directly from the applicant. For assistance, call toll-free 1–866–208–3676 or email *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.* For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10993 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1388–082]

Southern California Edison Company; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing With the Commission, Soliciting Motions To Intervene and Protests, Ready for Environmental Analysis, and Soliciting Comments, Terms and Conditions, Recommendations and Preliminary Fishway Prescriptions

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* New major license.

b. *Project No.:* 1388–082.

c. *Date filed:* January 29, 2025.

d. *Applicant:* Southern California Edison Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* The existing project is located on both Lee Vining and Glacier Creeks in Inyo County, California, near the town of Lee Vining. The project affects 536 acres of federal land managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Wayne Allen, Principal Manager, Southern California Edison Company, 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770; Telephone (626) 302–9741 or email *wayneallen@sce.com.*

i. *FERC Contact:* Rebecca Kipp, (202) 502–8846 or *rebecca.kipp@ferc.gov.*

j. *Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions:* on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on July 27, 2026; reply comments are due on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 10, 2026.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file file motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions using the Commission's eFiling system at *https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx.* Commenters can submit brief comments up to 10,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at *https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx.* For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov,* (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy via U.S. Postal Service to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P–1388–082.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis.

l. The existing Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project consists of four dams and three reservoirs including: (1) the 600-foot-long, 45-foot-high redwood-faced rockfill Saddlebag Dam with: (a) a 54-foot-wide, 4.5-foot-deep rectangular notch spillway that discharges directly into Lee Vining Creek below the dam, (b) a 297-acre Saddlebag Lake impoundment with 9,495 acre-feet net storage capacity at 10,089.40 feet above mean sea level elevation (msl), (c) a 220-foot-long, 30-inch-diameter riveted steel pipeline to extend the outlet downstream of the dam, and (d) a low-level outlet works with maximum discharge capacity of about 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) that discharge directly into Lee Vining Creek and consists of: (i) a fully submerged, ungated, concrete intake box at 10,048.8 feet msl located at upstream toe of the dam that admits water to (ii) a 30-inch-diameter concrete-encased steel pipe that passes under the dam near the left abutment that is controlled at the downstream toe by (iii) a manually operated 30-inch rising stem gate valve, and (iv) a concrete valve house located at the south of Saddlebag Dam; (2) the 270-foot-long, 27-foot-high redwood-faced rockfill Tioga Dam with: (e) 57-feet-wide, 4-feet-deep spillway with a crest elevation of 9,650.28 feet msl, (f) the low-level outlet works consisting of a 24-inch-diameter concrete-encased riveted steel pipe that passes through the base of the main Tioga Dam with an upstream invert elevation of 9,626.72 feet msl, draining into Lee Vining Creek which is manually controlled by (g) a 24-inch gate valve located in (h) a concrete valve house at the downstream toe of the Tioga Dam; and (3) the 50-foot-long, 19-foot-high, concrete-arch Tioga Auxiliary Dam located on Tioga Lake in the headwaters of Glacier Creek, that together with the Tioga Dam impound the 73-acre Tioga Lake with 1,254 acre-feet net storage capacity at 9,650.28 feet msl, and (j) the 19.5-foot-long right auxiliary spillway bay, and the 21.5-foot-long left auxiliary spillway bay at 9,651.28 feet msl crest elevation; and (4) the 437-foot-long, 18.5-foot-high rockfill Rhinedollar Dam that (k) impounds the 61-acre Ellery Lake with 493 acre-feet net storage capacity at 9,492.53 feet above msl, (l) three spillway bays, each 12-foot-wide and 6.5-foot-deep, located at Rhinedollar Dam at an elevation of 9,492.53 feet msl, (m) a reinforced concrete intake structure at 9,480 feet elevation msl, (n) a 6,271-foot-long below ground flowline with a maximum flow of 110 cfs that convey flows from Ellery Lake at the Rhinedollar Dam to Poole Powerhouse and consists of: (v) a 2,530-foot-long, 48-inch-diameter double riveted steel pipeline, and (vi) a 3,741-foot-long steel penstock that tapers from 44- to 28-inches in diameter; (o) the outlet works

consists of a 48-inch concrete-encased steel pipe conduit with a butterfly valve at the downstream end; (p) the 68-foot-long, 38-foot-wide, 43-foot-high reinforced concrete Poole Powerhouse and located on Lee Vining Creek east downstream of Ellery Lake which contains one generating unit with a nameplate capacity of 11.25 megawatts (MWs); (q) a switchyard located immediately north of the powerhouse that contains the main power transformers, (r) approximately 50 feet of primary transmission line between the switchyard and Poole Powerhouse, (s) seven project-associated stream gages immediately downstream of Saddlebag and Tioga Dams, in stream; and (t) appurtenant facilities.

Southern California Edison Company is not proposing any changes to project facilities or operation.

m. A copy of the application may be viewed on the Commission's website at *http://www.ferc.gov* using the ''eLibrary'' link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title ''PROTEST'', ''MOTION TO INTERVENE'', ''COMMENTS'', ''REPLY COMMENTS'', ''RECOMMENDATIONS,'' ''TERMS AND CONDITIONS,'' or ''PRESCRIPTIONS;'' (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

You may also register online at *https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx* to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202)502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

o. The applicant must file the following on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on July 27, 2026: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

p. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time June 29, 2026.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10988 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: Thursday, June 4, 2026, 8:45 a.m. Eastern Time.

PLACE: The meeting will be held at the Jacqueline A. Berrien Training Center, 131 M Street NE, Washington, DC 20507. The meeting will also be held as a listen-only audio. The public may attend in person or connect to the audio-only by following the instructions that will be posted on *www.eeoc.gov* at least 24 hours before the meeting. ASL services will be available for those attending the meeting in person and a closed captioning link will be posted on our website prior to the meeting.

If you wish to attend the meeting in person, you must email *commissionmeetingcomments@eeoc.gov* to register by providing your name as it appears on your driver's license or other government-issued identification at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. You will be asked to show your ID upon arrival.

STATUS: The meeting will be open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

The following items will be considered at the meeting:

- Rescission of Strategic Enforcement Plan Fiscal Years 2024–2028 (SEP) and Replacement Thereof with National Enforcement Plan Fiscal Years 2025–2029 (NEP)
- Additional Instructions for MD–715 Reporting for 2026

Note: In accordance with the Sunshine Act, the public will be able to observe the Commission's deliberations and voting. (In addition to publishing notices on Commission meetings in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides information about Commission meetings on its website, *www.eeoc.gov* and provides a recorded announcement one week in advance of future Commission meetings.) Public observation does not include participation. Observers seeking to take still photographs, video, or audio recordings of the meeting must seek permission by contacting the Executive Secretariat at *commissionmeetingcomments@eeoc.gov* at least 24 hours before the meeting to discuss the manner of recording and ensure it does not interfere with the meeting.

Please telephone (202) 921–2705, or email *commissionmeetingcomments@eeoc.gov* at any time for information on this meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Raymond Windmiller, Executive Officer, (202) 921–2705.

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Raymond D. Windmiller,

Executive Officer, Executive Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 2026–10964 Filed 5–29–26; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6570–01–P

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Notice of Open Meeting for the 2026–2027 EXIM Advisory Committees

AGENCY: Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Discussion of EXIM policies and programs designed to support the expansion of financing support for U.S. manufactured goods and services.

DATES: Friday, June 12th, 2026 from 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. ET.

ADDRESSES: Virtual: The meeting will be held virtually for committee members, EXIM's Board of Directors, support staff, and all other participants.

Registration and Public Comment: Virtual Public Participation: The meeting will be open to public participation virtually and time will be allotted for questions or comments submitted online. Members of the public may also file written statements before or after the meeting to *advisory@exim.gov.*

Interested parties may register for the meeting at: *https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/1260dab7-c981-4eb4-ac22-5a6111444e19@b953013c-c791-4d32-996f-518390854527.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information about applying for membership to any of the committees, please contact Brandy James at *advisory@exim.gov.*

Authority: The Committee was established by the Bank as directed by Section 2(b)(9) of the Export Import Bank Act of 1945. These Advisory Committees are chartered in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (''FACA''), 5 U.S.C. App.

India Walker,

Deputy Vice President, Office of External Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–11006 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6690–01–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OIA Docket No. 24–30; FR ID 347525]

Informal Working Group 1 (IWG–1), Informal Working Group 2 (IWG–2), Informal Working Group 3 (IWG–3), and Informal Working Group 4 (IWG–4) of the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee (WRC–27 Advisory Committee) Schedule Their Meetings

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises interested persons that Informal Working Group 1 (IWG–1), Informal Working Group 2 (IWG–2,) Informal Working Group 3 (IWG–3,) and Informal Working Group 4 (IWG–4) of the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee (WRC–27 Advisory Committee) have scheduled meetings as set forth below. The meetings are open to the public.

DATES:

30 June 2026 IWG–1, 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
30 June 2026 IWG–2, 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.
1 July 2026 IWG–3, 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
1 July 2026 IWG–4, 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.
28 July 2026 IWG–1, 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
28 July 2026 IWG–2, 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.
29 July 2026 IWG–3, 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
29 July 2026 IWG–4, 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.
25 August 2026 IWG–1, 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
25 August 2026 IWG–2, 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.
26 August 2026 IWG–3, 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
26 August 2026 IWG–4, 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.
15 September 2026 IWG–1, 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
15 September 2026 IWG–2, 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.
16 September 2026 IWG–3, 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
16 September 2026 IWG–4, 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held virtually.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Baker, Designated Federal Official, World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee, FCC Office of International Affairs, Global Strategy and Negotiation Division, at *Gregory.Baker@fcc.gov,* (202) 919–0758 or *WRC-27@fcc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FCC established the Advisory Committee to provide advice, technical support and recommendations relating to the preparation of United States proposals and positions for the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC–27).

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, as amended, this notice advises interested persons of the IWG–1, IWG–2, IWG–3 and IWG–4 of the WRC–27 Advisory Committee scheduled meetings. The Commission's WRC–27 website (*www.fcc.gov/wrc-27*) contains the latest information on all scheduled meetings, meeting agendas, and WRC–27 Advisory Committee matters.

Below is additional IWG meeting information:

WRC–27 Advisory Committee

Schedule of Meetings of Informal Working Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4

Informal Working Group 1: Maritime, Aeronautical and Radar Services

Chair—Kim Kolb, *kim.1.kolb@boeing.com,* telephone: (703) 220–2438.

Vice Chair—Nicholas Shrout, *njs@asri.aero,* telephone: (443) 951–0335.

FCC Representatives: Louis Bell, *louis.bell@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–1641; Allen Yang, *allen.yang@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0738; Dante Ibarra, *dante.ibarra@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0610; Gregory Baker, *gregory.baker@fcc.gov,* (202) 919–0758.

IWG–1—Meetings

Date: June 30, 2026.
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/214875079216726?p=BlSEuQNhcb4erlzsDG.
Meeting ID: 214 875 079 216 726.
Passcode: BM9SU7WQ.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,45207034# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 452 070 34#.

Date: July 28, 2026.
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/229248997155077?p=RkikZLeSSGjuXpqcmm.
Meeting ID: 229 248 997 155 077.
Passcode: bC7kM3wY.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,850574265# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 850 574 265#.

Date: August 25, 2026.
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/221573355374687?p=VxiiKn7az2dGbM1Z2c.
Meeting ID: 221 573 355 374 687.
Passcode: NJ3xv6NG.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,251320150# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 251 320 150#.

Date: September 15, 2026.
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET–2:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/263399331915695?p=WwmA5JRdNI7Vr8marB.
Meeting ID: 263 399 331 915 695.
Passcode: 3zr6Vd2e.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,298453881# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 298 453 881#.

Informal Working Group 2: Mobile and Fixed Services

Chair—Daudeline Meme, *daudeline.meme@verizon.com,* telephone: (202) 253–8362.

Vice Chair—Reza Arefi, *rezaa@apple.com,* telephone: (202) 235–7298.

FCC Representatives: Louis Bell, *louis.bell@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–1641; Dante Ibarra, *dante.ibarra@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0610; Gregory Baker, *Gregory.Baker@fcc.gov,* (202) 919–0758.

IWG–2—Meetings

Date: June 30, 2026.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/214875079216726?p=BlSEuQNhcb4erlzsDG.
Meeting ID: 214 875 079 216 726.
Passcode: BM9SU7WQ.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,45207034# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 452 070 34#.

Date: July 28, 2026.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.

https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/229248997155077?p=RkikZLeSSGjuXpqcmm.
Meeting ID: 229 248 997 155 077.
Passcode: bC7kM3wY.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,850574265# United States, Vancouver
Phone conference ID: 850 574 265#.
Date: August 25, 2026.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/221573355374687?p=VxiiKn7az2dGbM1Z2c.
Meeting ID: 221 573 355 374 687.
Passcode: NJ3xv6NG.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,251320150# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 251 320 150#.
Date: September 15, 2026.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–3:30 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/263399331915695?p=WwmA5JRdNI7Vr8marB.
Meeting ID: 263 399 331 915 695.
Passcode: 3zr6Vd2e.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256, 298453881# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 298 453 881#.

Informal Working Group 3: Fixed-Satellite Service and Regulatory Matters

Chair—Alex Epshteyn, *epshteyn@amazon.com,* telephone: (703) 963–6136.
Vice Chair—Ryan Henry, *rhenry@blueorigin.com,* telephone: (253) 437–9300 x18915.
FCC Representatives: Clay DeCell, *clay.decell@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0803; Kathyrn Medley, *kathyrn.medley@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–1211; Eric Grodsky, *eric.grodsky@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0563; Dante Ibarra, *dante.ibarra@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0610; Gregory Baker, *Gregory.Baker@fcc.gov,* (202) 919–0758.

IWG–3—Meetings

Dates: July 1, 2026.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/255669249111785?p=BYavOfYnclx716ynKf.
Meeting ID: 255 669 249 111 785.
Passcode: GW3Cj6FW.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,419833013# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 419 833 013#.
Dates: July 29, 2027.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/261045277752248?p=iMXEP4F7oMkES1Fw6R.
Meeting ID: 261 045 277 752 248.
Passcode: nC2Jh3Yx.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,338800232# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 338 800 232#.
Dates: August 26, 2026.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/264878208174613?p=UJkKW16JIv3qtqUgZ1.
Meeting ID: 242 867 922 809 52.
Passcode: na9xQ7vQ.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,130910836# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 130 910 836# Access code: 2830 740 8273.
Dates: September 16, 2026.
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET–4:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/214059293030809?p=tsBDHN4tcMYcgTPuVZ.
Meeting ID: 214 059 293 030 809.
Passcode: 83YR25FL.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256,,119002755# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 119 002 755#.

Informal Working Group 4: Mobile Satellite and Space Science Services

Chair—Damon Ladson *dladson@hwglaw.com,* telephone: (202) 730–1315.
Vice Chair—Ben Wagner, *benjamin.wagner@ast-science.com,* telephone: (585)–727–8895.
FCC Representatives: Dante Ibarra, *dante.ibarra@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0610; Clay DeCell, *clay.decell@fcc.gov,* telephone: (202) 418–0803; Gregory Baker, *Gregory.Baker@fcc.gov,* (202) 919–0758.

IWG–4—Meetings

Dates: July 1, 2026.
Time: 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/249441961148484?p=iowV0uqfJbRXFzfyFz.
Meeting ID: 249 441 961 148 484.
Passcode: DD3Pb3ZZ.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256, 595252158# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 419 833 013#.
Dates: July 29, 2026.
Time: 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/297407886714276?p=DDiwC6a99Eu1AMYdGU.
Meeting ID: 297 407 886 714 276.
Passcode: if9Ff2a8.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256, 252015640# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 252 015 640#.
Dates: August 26, 2026.
Time: 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/252201310623967?p=UnvhPTeynztf07h5Ji.
Meeting ID: 252 201 310 623 967.
Passcode: Vo69i55y.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256, 688756504# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 688 756 504#.
Dates: September 16, 2026.
Time: 11:00 a.m. ET–1:00 p.m. ET.
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/267185568445107?p=wTwxsHGBoc3JnZHeXd.
Meeting ID: 267 185 568 445 107.
Passcode: uU9Gg2uz.
Dial in by phone: +1 360–726–3256, 543136449# United States, Vancouver.
Phone conference ID: 543 136 449#.

Federal Communications Commission.

Sarah Van Valzah,

Assistant Chief, Office of International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–10943 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as

confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Benjamin W. McDonough, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than July 2, 2026.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Erien O. Terry, Assistant Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Applications.Comments@atl.frb.org:*

1. *Private Financial, Inc;* to become a bank holding company by acquiring Private Bank & Trust, a de novo bank, both of Gainesville, Georgia.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2026–10984 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-26–1198; Docket No. CDC–2026–0925]

Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice with comment period.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled Use of the Cyclosporiasis National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire (CNHGQ) During Investigations of Foodborne Disease Clusters and Outbreaks. The CNHGQ facilitates the collection of standard data during investigation of outbreaks of cyclosporiasis, thereby increasing the likelihood that outbreaks will be recognized, and sources will be identified.

DATES: CDC must receive written comments on or before August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC–2026–0925 by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21–8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to *www.regulations.gov.*

Please note: Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal (*www.regulations.gov*) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21–8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404–639–7570; Email: *omb@cdc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. In addition, the PRA also requires federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submissions of responses; and

5. Assess information collection costs.

Proposed Project

Use of the Cyclosporiasis National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire (CNHGQ) During Investigations of Foodborne Disease Clusters and Outbreaks (OMB Control No. 0920—1198, Exp. 10/31/2026)—Extension—National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is requesting a three-year Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) clearance for an Extension or the information collection request (ICR) Use of the Cyclosporiasis National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire (CNHGQ) During Investigations of Foodborne Disease Clusters and Outbreaks (OMB Control No. 0920–1198, Exp. 10/31/2026).

An estimated one in six Americans each year becomes ill with a foodborne disease. Foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis, caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis,* have been reported in the United States since the mid-1990s and have been linked to various types of fresh produce. During the 15-year period of 2000–2014, 31 U.S. foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis were reported; the total case count was 1,562. It is likely that more cases (and outbreaks) occurred than were reported; in addition, because of insufficient data, many of the reported cases could not be directly linked to an outbreak or to a particular food vehicle. In recent years, from 2018 onward the number of cases reported annually to CDC has increased substantially to over 2,000 cases; notably, in 2025, more than 2,800 cases were reported.

Collecting the requisite data for the initial hypothesis-generating phase of investigations of multistate foodborne disease outbreaks is associated with multiple challenges, including the need to have high-quality hypothesis-generating questionnaire(s) that can be used effectively in multijurisdictional investigations. Such a questionnaire was developed in the past for use in the context of foodborne outbreaks caused by bacterial pathogens; that questionnaire is referred to as the

Standardized National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire (SNHGQ). However, not all of the data elements in the SNHGQ are relevant to the parasite *Cyclospora* (*e.g.,* questions about consumption of meat and dairy products); on the other hand, additional data elements not included in the SNHGQ are needed to capture information pertinent to *Cyclospora* and to fresh produce vehicles of infection. Therefore, the Cyclosporiasis National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire (CNHGQ) has been developed, by using core data elements from the SNHGQ and incorporating modifications pertinent to *Cyclospora.*

The core data elements from the SNHGQ were developed by a series of working groups comprised of local, state, and federal public health partners. Subject matter experts at CDC developed the CNHGQ by modifying the SNHGQ to include and focus on data elements pertinent to Cyclospora/cyclosporiasis. Input also was solicited from state public health partners. Because relatively few data elements in the SNHGQ needed to be modified, a full vetting process was determined not to be necessary. The CNHGQ has been designed for administration over the telephone by public health officials (or their proxies), to collect data elements from case-patients. Collected data will be pooled and analyzed at CDC, to generate hypotheses about potential vehicles/sources of infection.

CDC requests OMB approval to collect information via the CNHGQ from persons who have developed symptomatic cases of *Cyclospora* infection during periods in which increased numbers of such cases are reported (typically, during spring and summer months). In part because molecular typing methods for *C. cayetanensis* cannot independently identify genetically linked clusters, it is important to interview all case-patients identified during periods of increased reporting, to help determine if their cases could be part of an outbreak(s).

CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 2,100 total annualized burden hours (approximately 2,800 individuals interviewed x 45 minutes/response). There will be no costs to respondents other than their time.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden (in hours)
Ill individuals identified with cyclosporiasis.	Cyclosporiasis National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire.	2,800	1	45/60	2,100
Total					2,100

Jeffrey M. Zirger,

Lead, Information Collection Review Office, Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations, Office of Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2026–11011 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-26–1359; Docket No. CDC–2026–0859]

Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice with comment period.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled National Survey of Syringe Services Programs (NSSSP). This program was created to assess and monitor SSP operational characteristics and services, funding resources, community relations, and key operational and programmatic successes and challenges, and to support timely analysis and dissemination of national program evaluation survey findings.

DATES: CDC must receive written comments on or before August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC–2026–0859 by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21–8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to *www.regulations.gov.*

Please note: Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal (*www.regulations.gov*) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21–8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404–639–7570; Email: *omb@cdc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. In addition, the PRA also requires federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submissions of responses; and

5. Assess information collection costs.

Proposed Project

The National Survey of Syringe Services Programs (NSSSP) (OMB Control No. 0920–1359, Exp. 1/31/2027)—Revision—National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The primary purpose of the National Survey of Syringe Services Programs (NSSSP) is to strengthen and improve the ability of CDC and local and state partners to monitor and evaluate syringe services programs (SSPs) nationally, with the overall goal of supporting, sustaining, and improving SSPs nationwide and reducing infectious disease and other harms related to drug use. Findings from the 2022–2025 survey successfully characterized operational characteristics and services, funding resources, community relations, and key operational successes and challenges. The 2026 survey is currently being implemented. Revisions are being requested to address the increasing number of SSPs nationwide, updated infectious disease and substance use prevention, testing, and treatment modalities, additional SSP services provided, and additional information on overdose prevention and reversals.

The project will include all SSPs that are listed in a publicly available directory of all known SSPs in the United States maintained by the North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN; *https://nasen.org*). The project will also include SSPs in NASEN's directory that do not wish to be publicly listed but have agreed to be contacted for research purposes, SSPs belonging to NASEN's buyers' club that are not part of the directory, respondents to prior RTI Arnold Ventures Surveys of SSPs that are not part of NASEN's directory, and other SSPs proactively identified through searching state health department websites, funding agencies, state and regional networks, regional conferences, partner organization networks or webinars and via social media. SSPs will be sent a letter of invitation to participate in a 35-minute program survey. Participating programs will have the option of completing the survey via different modalities to enhance feasibility and comfort in completing the survey, for example via the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) or a similarly secure web-based application. Other modalities for survey administration will include a coordinated telephone or videoconferencing interview. SSPs will be sent reminder letters for an approximately 6-month data collection period.

The survey will include questions on operational characteristics and services, funding resources, community relations, and key operational successes and challenges. Approximately 1000 SSPs will be able to participate in the survey. We anticipate that approximately 20% of SSPs will decline to complete the survey, yielding approximately 800 completed surveys per year. However, given that it is challenging to predict future response rates, we are requesting enough burden hours to allow 100% of SSPs to respond to the survey. We estimate that it will take 35 minutes to complete the survey, regardless of how the respondent chooses to complete it (*i.e.,* self-administered online or interviewer-administered by phone or videoconferencing). SSPs that do not respond to the initial survey invitation will be given reminders to complete the survey over the duration of the survey implementation period. CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 583 annual burden hours. There are no costs to respondents other than their time.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden (in hours)
All participating SSPs	National Survey of Syringe Services Programs.	1000	1	35/60	583
Total					583

Jeffrey M. Zirger,

Lead, Information Collection Review Office, Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations, Office of Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2026–11012 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-26–0696]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has submitted the information collection request titled ''National HIV Prevention Program Monitoring and Evaluation (NHM&E)'' to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. CDC previously published a ''Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations'' notice on November 21, 2025, to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. CDC received one comment related to the previous notice. This notice serves to allow an additional 30 days for public and affected agency comments.

CDC will accept all comments for this proposed information collection project.

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments that:

(a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses; and

(e) Assess information collection costs.

To request additional information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, call (404) 639–7570. Comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function. Direct written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice to the Attention: CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395–5806. Provide written comments within 30 days of notice publication.

Proposed Project

National HIV Prevention Program Monitoring and Evaluation (NHM&E) (OMB Control No. 0920–0696, Exp. 1/31/2028)—Revision—National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Prevention (NCHHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The CDC requests a revision to the National HIV Prevention Program Monitoring and Evaluation (NHM&E) information collection, currently approved under OMB Control No. 0920–0696. Approval of this Revision will allow collection of standardized HIV prevention program evaluation data from health departments (HDs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) who receive federal funds for HIV prevention activities. This evaluation and reporting process ensures that CDC receives consistent data from both HD and CBO grantees. To develop the initial standardized NHM&E data variables, CDC consulted extensively with representatives from HDs, CBOs, and national partners including The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors and Urban Coalition of HIV/AIDS Prevention Services.

Health departments and CBOs that receive federal HIV prevention funds must report non-identifying, standardized evaluation data to CDC. These data are necessary to: (1) accurately assess the extent of HIV prevention efforts, identify the types of agencies providing services, evaluate the resources allocated to those services, determine the populations being served, and understand how these efforts have contributed to a reduction in HIV transmission; and (2) ensure accountability to stakeholders by informing them about HIV prevention activities and the use of funds for HIV prevention nationwide. CDC HIV prevention program grantees will collect, enter or upload, and report agency-identifying information, intervention information, client demographics and behavioral risk characteristics. Data collection will include searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data, document compilation, review of data, and data entry or uploading to an approved CDC data system.

The Revision of the currently approved ICR is intended to accommodate the new reporting requirements for CDC's newest prevention program cooperative agreement (CDC–RFA–PS24–0047) and includes the following changes and adjustments: (1) additions and updates to Race and Ethnicity data collection, in alignment with OMB's SPD–15 directives; (2) deletion and modification of variables in alignment with Executive Orders; (3) deletion and modification of PrEP-related variables in alignment with screening and eligibility recommendation changes; (4) inclusion of antiretroviral therapy, post-exposure prophylaxis, Mpox, tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, and modification of response options for Hepatitis C, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis testing, treatment, and referral variables; (5) modification of variables and response options for Essential Support Services screening, determination, referral, and provision variables; and (6) addition of new jurisdiction-level aggregate and qualitative variables.

CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 324,386 burden hours. The increase in burden hours is mostly due to a re-evaluation of the time required for funded CBOs to conduct data related activities. There are no additional costs to respondents other than their time to participate.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)
Health departments	HIV testing & prevention services template	59	2	1,427
Community-based organizations.	HIV testing & prevention services template	114	2	520
Community-based organizations.	HIV testing & prevention services template	36	2	520

Jeffrey M. Zirger,

Lead, Information Collection Review Office, Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations, Office of Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2026–11010 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-26–0338]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has submitted the information collection request titled ''Annual Submission of the Ingredients Added to, and the Quantity of Nicotine Contained in, Smokeless Tobacco Manufactured, Imported, or Packaged in the U.S.'' to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. CDC previously published a ''Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations'' notice on September 9, 2025, to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. CDC did not receive any public comments in response to this notice. This notice serves to allow an additional 30 days for public and affected agency comments.

CDC will accept all comments for this proposed information collection project. The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments that:

(a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses; and

(e) Assess information collection costs.

To request additional information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, call (404) 639–7570. Comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function. Direct written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice to the Attention: CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395–5806. Provide written comments within 30 days of notice publication.

Proposed Project

Annual Submission of the Ingredients Added to, and the Quantity of Nicotine Contained in, Smokeless Tobacco Manufactured, Imported, or Packaged in the U.S. (OMB Control No. 0920–0338)—Reinstatement without Change—National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

Smokeless tobacco products (SLT) are associated with many health problems. Using smokeless tobacco can lead to nicotine addiction; causes cancer of the mouth, esophagus, and pancreas; is associated with diseases of the mouth; can increase risks for early delivery and stillbirth when used during pregnancy; can cause nicotine poisoning in children; and may increase the risk for death from heart disease and stroke.

The CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) has the primary responsibility for the HHS smoking and health program. As required by the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (CSTHEA, 15 U.S.C. 4401 *et seq.,* Pub. L. 99–252), CDC collects a list of ingredients added to tobacco in the manufacture of smokeless tobacco products and a specification of the quantity of nicotine contained in each product. HHS has delegated responsibility for implementing the required information collection to CDC's OSH. Respondents are manufacturers, packagers, or importers (or their representatives) of smokeless tobacco products. Respondents are not required to submit specific forms. However, they are required to meet reporting guidelines and to submit the ingredient report by chemical name and Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) Registration Number, consistent with accepted reporting practices for other companies that are required to report ingredients added to other consumer products. Typically, respondents submit a summary report to CDC with the ingredient information for multiple products, or a statement that there are no changes to their previously submitted ingredient report. Respondents may submit the required information to CDC through a designated representative. The information collection is subject to strict confidentiality provisions.

Ingredient reports for new SLT products are due at the time of first importation. Thereafter, ingredient reports are due annually on March 31. Information is submitted to CDC by mailing a written report on the respondent's letterhead, by CD, three-inch floppy disk, or thumb drive. Electronic mail submissions are not accepted. Annual submission reports are mailed to Attention: FCLAA Program Manager, Office on Smoking and Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, MS S107–7, Atlanta, GA 30341–3717.

Upon receipt and verification of the annual nicotine and ingredient report, CDC issues a Certificate of Compliance to the respondent. As deemed appropriate by the Secretary of HHS, HHS is authorized to use the information to report to Congress the health effects of ingredients, research activities related to the health effects of ingredients, and other information that the Secretary determines to be of public interest.

CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 18,843 annual burden hours. There are no costs to respondents other than their time.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)
Smokeless Tobacco Manufacturers, Packagers, and Importers.	SLT Nicotine and Ingredient and Report	11	1	1,713

Jeffrey M. Zirger,

Lead, Information Collection Review Office, Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations, Office of Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2026–11009 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-26–1469; Docket No. CDC–2026–0958]

Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice with comment period.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled 2026 Ebola Entry Screening, Monitoring, & Traveler Feedback. This data collection will be used to assess risk for infection or exposure to Ebola in travelers coming to the United States from areas affected by an outbreak of Ebola originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

DATES: CDC must receive written comments on or before August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC–2026–0958 by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21–8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to *www.regulations.gov.*

Please note: Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal (*www.regulations.gov*) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS H21–8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404–639–7570; Email: *omb@cdc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. In addition, the PRA also requires federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submissions of responses; and

5. Assess information collection costs.

Proposed Project

2026 Ebola Entry Screening, Monitoring, & Traveler Feedback (OMB Control No. 0920–1469)—New—National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

Section 361 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. 264) authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make and enforce regulations necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into the United States. Under its delegated authority, DGMH works to fulfill this responsibility through a variety of activities, including the operation of Port Health Stations at ports of entry and administration of foreign quarantine regulations; 42 Code of Federal Regulation part 71 (Attachment A2), specifically 42 CFR 71.20 Public health prevention measures to detect communicable disease. This information collection concerns CDC's statutory and regulatory authority related to conducting public health screening of travelers upon arrival to the United States and assessing individual travelers for public health risk following a report of illness from a conveyance and CDC's responsibility to ensure the successful implementation of traveler monitoring to prevent the transmission or spread of communicable diseases into the United States.

On May 18, 2026, CDC published an Order under the Public Health Service Act Suspending Introduction of Certain Persons From Countries Where a Communicable Disease Exists. This suspension is time-limited (30 days) to allow CDC to complete a comprehensive public health risk assessment and to develop mitigation and containment strategies in consultation with other

stakeholders. Exceptions are included for U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, lawful permanent residents, certain U.S. government personnel and military, case-by-case humanitarian or law enforcement exceptions, and Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-approved entry processes with CDC-documented mitigation protocols.

CDC relies on its federal partners in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assist in the screening process because of their presence at the ports of entry. DHS will refer travelers that have been to Ebola outbreak areas to another location at the airport where CDC will ask initial health screening questions to determine if a more in-depth public health risk assessment is necessary. CDC develops the tools and training to facilitate this screening process and works to ensure that any individual who is identified by DHS as being from the outbreak area is further evaluated. This may involve medical evaluation by CDC followed by transport to a healthcare facility if somebody is identified as being ill; a location for quarantine at or near that location; and/or communication via phone with CDC or state and local health departments to see if the travelers develop symptoms after arrival.

On May 17, 2026, an outbreak of Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus was detected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. On May 20, 2026, the DHS published Arrival Restrictions Applicable to Flights Carrying Persons Who Have Recently Traveled From or Were Otherwise Present Within the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda, or South Sudan. Airlines are instructed to redirect flights carrying persons who have recently traveled from or were otherwise present within DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan in the previous 21 days to Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD). CDC is conducting public health entry screening at designated U.S. airports (IAD) of travelers coming from DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan. The purpose of public health entry screening is to detect ill travelers or travelers arriving from regions affected by the outbreak who are at risk of becoming ill with Ebola to facilitate post-arrival management.

CDC will utilize information collected during public health entry screening to determine which travelers should be monitored for Ebola symptoms in accordance with CDC's interim recommendations for post-arrival public health management of travelers from the outbreak area. CDC is currently sharing contact information and initial public health assessment of exposure risk for travelers who have been in areas affected by the outbreak during the 21 days before their arrival in the United States with state and local health departments through existing data-sharing infrastructure. State and local health departments utilize the contact information provided by CDC to prioritize and identify the level of follow-up needed based on the level of risk of exposure to Ebola and determine additional if additional risk assessment and/or targeted public health measures are necessary. This coordination is necessary to facilitate post-arrival public health management as specified in CDC interim guidance.

At the end of the 21-day monitoring period, CDC will send a final survey to travelers intended to evaluate the impact of rerouting and public health entry screening on travelers. The results of this final survey will allow CDC to identify the most efficient channels for reaching travelers and refine public health messaging for travelers coming from the outbreak area.

CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 6,945 annual burden hours.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondent	Form name	Number of respondents	Number responses per respondent	Avg. Burden per response (in hrs.)	Total burden (in hrs.)
Traveler	Initial PHA _2026 Ebola DRC	36,500	1	5/60	3,042
Traveler	Follow up PHA_2026 Ebola DRC	3,650	1	15/60	913
Traveler	2026 Ebola Symptom Monitoring Daily	365	21	1/60	128
Traveler	2026 Ebola Symptom Monitoring Web Survey	365	21	5/60	639
Traveler	2026 Ebola Symptom Monitoring Weekly	3,285	3	1/60	164
Traveler	2026 Ebola Symptom Monitoring Web Survey	3,285	3	5/60	821
Traveler	2026 Ebola Response Survey of Travelers	3,650	1	10/60	608
State/Local Health Department.	2026 Ebola Jurisdiction Traveler Monitoring	70	104	5/60	607
State/Local Health Department.	2026 Ebola Jurisdiction Final Survey	70	1	20/60	23
Total					6, 945

Jeffrey M. Zirger,

Lead, Information Collection Review Office, Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations, Office of Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2026–11013 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS–10463 and CMS–10492]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS' intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, and to allow a second opportunity for public

comment on the notice. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

DATES: Comments on the collection(s) of information must be received by the OMB desk officer by July 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, please access the CMS PRA website by copying and pasting the following web address into your web browser: *https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Parham at (410) 786–4669.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. The term ''collection of information'' is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires federal agencies to publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment.

Information Collection

Type of Information Collection Request: Reinstatement with change of a previously approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Cooperative Agreement to Support Navigators in Federally-facilitated Exchanges and State Partnership Exchanges; *Use:* Section 1311(i) of the ACA requires Exchanges to establish a Navigator program under which it awards grants to eligible individuals and entities, as described in Section 1311(i)(2) of the ACA and 45 CFR 155.210(a) and (c), to carry out certain Navigator duties in states with an FFE. Entities or individuals that receive a cooperative agreement award must be capable of carrying out, at a minimum, all Navigator duties required by the ACA and HHS regulations. The primary regulations that establish requirements for Navigator grant awardees are 45 CFR 155.210 and 155.215. Under the terms and conditions of the Navigator program cooperative agreements, awardees must provide progress reports on a weekly, monthly, and quarterly basis, and a final report at the end of the five-year period of performance. *Form Number:* CMS–10463 (OMB control number: 0938–1215); *Frequency:* Annually, Monthly, Quarterly, Weekly; *Affected Public:* Private Sector; Businesses or other for-profits, Not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 44; *Total Annual Responses:* 120,236; *Total Annual Hours:* 457,857. (For questions regarding this collection contact Gian Johnson at 301–492–4323.)

2. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act: Data Submission Requirements to Receive the Federally-facilitated Exchange User Fee Adjustment*; Use:* The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111–148, enacted on March 23, 2010, and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, Public Law 111–152, enacted on March 30, 2010 [collectively, the ''Affordable Care Act'' (ACA)], provides the authority for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to charge user fees to issuers participating in Federally-facilitated Exchanges (FFEs) and State-based Exchanges on the Federal platform (SBE–FPs). Additionally, section 2713 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) requires coverage without cost sharing of certain preventive health services, including certain contraceptive services, in non-exempt, non-grandfathered group health plans and health insurance coverage, including issuers participating in the FFEs and SBE–FPs. The final rule ''Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act'' (78 FR 39870) set forth regulations regarding coverage for certain preventive services under section 2713 of the PHS Act. The final regulations (78 FR 39870) establish rules under which the third party administrator (TPA) of a self-insured group health plan will provide or arrange for a third party to provide separate contraceptive coverage to plan participants and beneficiaries without cost sharing, premium, fee, or other charge to plan participants or beneficiaries or to the eligible organization or its plan under a process to accommodate qualifying objections to contraceptive coverage.

The final rules (78 FR 39870) also require the submission of certain information to HHS and the associated adjustment of user fees to issuers, as well as standards to fund the payments for the contraceptive services that are provided for participants and beneficiaries in self-insured plans of eligible organizations under the accommodation described previously, through an adjustment to the user fees payable by issuers. HHS requires this information to ensure that these FFE (or SBE–FP) user fee adjustments reflect payments for contraceptive services provided under this accommodation and that the adjustment is applied to the appropriate participating issuer.

This document describes the data collection requirements related to this adjustment, collected via a webform. This revision includes a decrease in burden, with the total estimated issuer and TPA burden and associated costs decreasing based on past years of experience with the program demonstrating a decreasing number of participants. *Form Number:* CMS–10492 (OMB Control Number: 0938–1285); *Frequency:* Annually; *Affected Public:* Private Sector, Business or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 235; *Number of Responses:* 315; *Total Annual Hours:* 1,340. (For policy questions regarding this collection, contact Mohinee Mukherjee at 404–562–0151.)

William N. Parham, III

Director, Division of Information Collections and Regulatory Impacts, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–10934 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Population Sciences and Epidemiology Integrated Review Group Neurological, Mental and Behavioral Health Study Section.

Date: June 24–25, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Allison Kurti, Ph.D. Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 1007J, Bethesda, MD 20892 (301) 594–1814, *kurtian@csr.nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Vascular and Hematology Integrated Review Group Hemostasis, Thrombosis, Blood Cells and Transfusion Study Section.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Vivian Tang, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594–6208, *tangvw@csr.nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review, Special Emphasis Panel Topics in Brain and Neurovascular Disorder.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Aleksey Gregory Kazantsev, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5201, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 435–1042 *aleksey.kazantsev@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel Integrative Myocardial Physiology.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Sara Ahlgren, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, RM 4136, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–435–0904, *sara.ahlgren@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel Bioanalytical, Molecular, Cellular Sciences and Technologies.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health 6701 Rockledge Drive Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Katherine Shim, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594–9150, *katherine.shim@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review, Special Emphasis Panel Training and Career Development: Cancer Research Training.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Klaus B. Piontek, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (240) 276–5413, *klaus.piontek@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Oncology 1-Basic Translational Integrated Review Group Cancer Cell Biology Study Section.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Alyssa Diane Gregory, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 480–4906, *alyssa.gregory@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel PAR 22–225: Investigator Initiated Program Project Applications.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Anuja Mathew, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435–0389, *anuja.mathew@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel Immune Signaling and Neurologic Disorders.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Marta Veronica Hamity, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institute of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 451–1664, *marta.hamity@nih.gov.*

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Bruce A. George,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–10956 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4167–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Cancer Immunotherapeutics.

Date: June 30, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Jing Chen, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institute of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435–5000, *chenjing@mail.nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Musculoskeletal Integrative Physiology and Disease (MIPD).

Date: July 1, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Erick Omar Hernandez Ochoa, Ph.D. MD, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 480–5672, *erick.hernandezochoa@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Health Services Research in Cancer Screening and Care.

Date: July 1, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Preethy Nayar, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 402–0302, *preethy.nayar@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Developmental and Regeneration Biology SEP.

Date: July 1, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Rass M. Shayiq, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 2182, MSC 7818, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435–2359, *shayiqr@csr.nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Training and Career Development: Immunology and Infectious Diseases T23.

Date: July 1, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Susham Shankarrao Ingavale, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, National Institutes of Health, Center for Scientific Review, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (240) 961–1172, *susham.ingavale@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Health Services Research for Aged Populations.

Date: July 1, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Keary A Cope, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 209–A, Bethesda, MD 20892–7924, (301) 594–5976, *copeka@nih.gov.*

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: May 29, 2026.

Margaret N. Vardanian,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–11018 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4167–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2026–0044]

Information Collection Request to Office of Management and Budget; OMB Control Number: 1625–0027

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Sixty-day notice requesting comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Coast Guard intends to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), requesting an extension of its approval for the following collection of information: 1625–0027, Vessel Documentation; without change. Our ICR describes the information we seek to collect from the public. Before submitting this ICR to OIRA, the Coast Guard is inviting comments as described below.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Coast Guard docket number [USCG–2026–0044] to the Coast Guard using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *https://www.regulations.gov.* See the ''Public participation and request for comments'' portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for further instructions on submitting comments.

A copy of the ICR is available through the docket on the internet at *https://www.regulations.gov.* Additionally, copies are available from: Commandant (CG–C5I–P), ATTN: Paperwork Reduction Act Manager, U.S. Coast Guard, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE, STOP 7710, Washington, DC 20593–7710.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A.L. Craig, Office of Privacy Management, telephone (571) 607–4058, or email *hqs-dg-m-cg-61-pii@uscg.mil.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Request for Comments

This notice relies on the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C., chapter 35, as amended. An ICR is an application to OIRA seeking the approval, extension, or renewal of a Coast Guard collection of information (Collection). The ICR contains information describing the Collection's purpose, the Collection's likely burden on the affected public, an explanation of the necessity of the Collection, and other important information describing the Collection. There is one ICR for each Collection.

The Coast Guard invites comments on whether this ICR should be granted based on the Collection being necessary for the proper performance of Departmental functions. In particular, the Coast Guard would appreciate comments addressing: (1) the practical utility of the Collection; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden of the Collection; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of information subject to the Collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the Collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

In response to your comments, we may revise this ICR or decide not to seek an extension of approval for the Collection without change. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

We encourage you to respond to this request by submitting comments and related materials. Comments must contain the OMB Control Number of the ICR and the docket number of this request, USCG–2026–0044, and must be received by August 3, 2026.

Submitting Comments

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *https://www.regulations.gov.* If your material cannot be submitted using *https://www.regulations.gov,* contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions. Documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, and all public comments, are in our online docket at *https://www.regulations.gov* and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. If you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted.

We accept anonymous comments. Comments we post to *https://www.regulations.gov* will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions in response to this document, see DHS's eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020).

Information Collection Request

Title: Vessel Documentation.

OMB Control Number: 1625–0027.

Summary: The information collected will be used to serve several critical functions: (a) establishing a vessel's nationality; (b) determining eligibility for specific maritime employment; and (c) enabling the vessel to serve as collateral for a preferred ship's mortgage. The information collected concerns citizenship of owner/applicant and build, tonnage and markings of a vessel.

Need: 46 U.S. Code Chapters 121, 123, 125 and 313 requires the documentation of vessels. A Certificate of Documentation is required for the operation of a vessel in certain trades, serves as evidence of vessel nationality and permits a vessel to be subject to preferred mortgages.

Forms:

- CG–1258, Application for Initial, Exchange, or Replacement of Certificate of Documentation; Redocumentation with optional attachments.
- CG–1261, Builder's Certification and First Transfer of Title.
- CG–1270, Certificate of Documentation.
- CG–1280, Vessel Renewal Notification Application for Renewal.
- CG–1330, Certificate of Ownership of Vessel.
- CG–1332, General Index or Abstract of Title.
- CG–1340, Bill of Sale.
- CG–1356, Bill of Sale by Government Entity Pursuant to Court Order of Administrative Degree of Forfeiture.
- CG–4593, Application, Consent, and Approval for Withdrawal of Application for Documentation or Exchange of Certificate of Documentation.
- CG–5542, Optional Application for Filing.
- CG–7042, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions.
- CG–7043, Abstract of Title/Certified COD Request.

Respondents: Owners/builders of yachts and commercial vessels of at least 5 net tons.

Frequency: Annually, and on occasion.

Hour Burden Estimate: The estimated burden has decreased from 90,326 hours to 67,089 hours, due to a decrease in the estimated number of responses.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: May 13, 2026.

Bradley E. White,

Chief, Office of Privacy Management, U.S. Coast Guard.

[FR Doc. 2026–10972 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

[OMB Control Number 1651–0001]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Extension; Cargo Manifest/Declaration, Stow Plan, Container Status Messages and Importer Security Filing

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: 60-Day notice and request for comments

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). The information collection is published in the **Federal Register** to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and must be submitted (no later than August 3, 2026) to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice must include the OMB Control Number 1651–0001 in the subject line and the agency name. Please submit written comments and/or suggestions in English. Please use the following method to submit comments:

Email. Submit comments to: *CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional PRA information should be directed to Seth Renkema, Chief, Economic Impact Analysis Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Trade, Regulations and Rulings, 90 K Street NE, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20229–1177, Telephone number 202–325–0056 or via email *CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov.* Please note that the contact information provided here is solely for questions regarding this notice. Individuals seeking information about other CBP programs should contact the CBP National Customer Service Center at 877–227–5511, (TTY) 1–800–877–8339, or CBP website at *https://www.cbp.gov/.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CBP invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed and/or continuing information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8. Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) suggestions to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) suggestions to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses. The comments that are submitted will be summarized and included in the request

for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Overview of This Information Collection

Title:
OMB Number: 1651–0001.
Form Number: 1302, 1302A, 7533, 7509.
Current Actions: Extension.
Type of Review: Extension.
Affected Public: Businesses.
Abstract:
Import Vessel Manifest:
CBP Form 1302: The master or commander of a vessel arriving in the United States from abroad with cargo on board must file CBP Form 1302, *Inward Cargo Declaration,* or submit the information on this form using a CBP-approved electronic equivalent. CBP Form 1302 is part of the manifest requirements for vessels entering the United States and was agreed upon by treaty at the United Nations Inter-government Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO). This form and/or electronic equivalent, is provided for by 19 CFR 4.5, 4.7, 4.7a, 4.8, 4.33, 4.34, 4.38. 4.84, 4.85, 4.86, 4.91, 4.93 and 4.99 and is accessible at: *https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/publications/forms?title=1302.*

Although the form has been mostly automated through the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), there are still circumstances where a paper CBP form 1302 is required due to not being captured in ACE; Such as the data elements for equipment of the vessel which is intended for discharge or empty containers being transported coastwise. CBP is working to automate the remaining use cases of the CBP form 1302 through the Vessel Entrance and Clearance System (VECS). Some data elements may be collected via the Electronic Notice of Arrival/Departure (eNOAD), however, the eNOAD system does not have all of the data elements on CBP Form 1302. This form is not required to be submitted in hard copy for cargo brought to the United States with the intent to import and/or carry onboard in trade but is required for ship's equipment which is intended for discharge.

CBP Form 7533: The master or person in charge of a conveyance files CBP Form 7533, *INWARD CARGO MANIFEST FOR VESSEL UNDER FIVE TONS, FERRY, TRAIN, CAR, VEHICLE, ETC,* which is required for a vehicle or a vessel of less than 5 net tons arriving in the United States from Canada or Mexico, otherwise than by sea, with baggage or merchandise. Respondents may also submit the information on this form using a CBP-approved electronic equivalent. CBP Form 7533, and/or electronic equivalent, is provided for by 19 CFR 123.4, 123.7, 123.61, 123.91, and 123.92, and is accessible at: *https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/publications/forms?title_1=7533.*

Vessel Stow Plan: For all vessels transporting containerized goods to the US the incoming carrier is required to electronically submit a vessel stow plan no later than 48 hours after the vessel departs from the last foreign port that includes information about the vessel and cargo. For voyages less than 48 hours in duration, CBP must receive the vessel stow plan prior to arrival at the first port in the United States. The vessel stow plan is provided for by 19 CFR 4.7c.

Container Status Messages (CSMs): For all containers destined to arrive within the limits of a U.S. port from a foreign port by vessel, the incoming carrier must submit messages regarding the status of events if the carrier creates or collects a container status message (CSM) in its equipment tracking system reporting that event. CSMs must be transmitted to CBP via a CBP-approved electronic data interchange system. These messages transmit information regarding events such as the status of a container (full or empty); booking a container destined to arrive in the United States; loading or unloading a container from a vessel; and a container arriving or departing the United States. CSMs are provided for by 19 CFR 4.7d.

Importer Security Filing (ISF): For most cargo arriving in the United States by vessel, the importer, or its authorized agent, must submit the data elements listed in 19 CFR 149.3 via a CBP-approved electronic interchange system within prescribed time frames outlined in 19 CFR 149.2. Transmission of these data elements provide CBP with advanced information about the shipment.

Export Manifest and Electronic Export Manifest (pilots):

CBP Form 1302A: The master or commander of a vessel departing from the United States must file CBP Form 1302A, *Cargo Declaration Outward With Commercial Forms,* or CBP-approved electronic equivalent, with copies of bills of lading or equivalent commercial documents relating to all cargo encompassed by the manifest. This form and/or electronic equivalent, is provided for by 19 CFR 4.62, 4.63, 4.75, 4.82, and 4.87–4.89, and is accessible at: *https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/publications/forms?title_1=1302A.*

Electronic Ocean Export Manifest: CBP began a pilot in 2015 to electronically collect the air export manifest information. The carrier or its agent or anyone with direct knowledge of the export manifest data to provide specific pre-departure export manifest data to CBP must provide electronic export manifest (EEM) data to CBP prior to the conveyance departing the final U.S. port of export. Any trade member can provide the 7+1 data elements identified by CBP as the initial filling at least 24 hours prior to the conveyance departing the final U.S. port of export. The remaining EEM data elements must be provided at least two hours prior to a conveyance departing a U.S. port of export. This advance information is transmitted to CBP via the ACE's Export Information System. This information is transmitted to CBP in advance via the ACE's Export Information System.

Electronic Air Export Manifest: CBP began a pilot in 2015 to electronically collect the air export manifest information. The carrier or its agent or anyone with direct knowledge of the export manifest data to provide specific pre-departure export manifest data to CBP must provide electronic export manifest (EEM) data to CBP prior to the conveyance departing the final U.S. port of export. Any trade member can provide the 7+1 data elements identified by CBP as the initial filling at least 24 hours prior to the conveyance departing the final U.S. port of export. The remaining EEM data elements must be provided at least two hours prior to a conveyance departing a U.S. port of export. This advance information is transmitted to CBP via the ACE's Export Information System. This information is transmitted to CBP in advance via the ACE's Export Information System.

Electronic Rail Export Manifest: CBP began a pilot in 2015 to electronically collect the air export manifest information. The carrier or its agent or anyone with direct knowledge of the export manifest data to provide specific pre-departure export manifest data to CBP must provide electronic export manifest (EEM) data to CBP prior to the conveyance departing the final U.S. port of export. Any trade member can provide the 7+1 data elements identified by CBP as the initial filling at least 24 hours prior to the conveyance departing the final U.S. port of export. The remaining EEM data elements must be provided at least two hours prior to a conveyance departing a U.S. port of export. This advance information is transmitted to CBP via the ACE's Export Information System. This information is transmitted to CBP in advance via the ACE's Export Information System.

Import and Export (Vessel) Manifest:

Manifest Confidentiality: An importer or consignee (inward) or a shipper (outward) may request confidential

treatment of its name and address contained in manifests by following the procedure set forth in 19 CFR 103.31. The Vessel NPRM is updating the allowed data elements. *https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-19/chapter-I/part-103.*

Air Manifest:

CBP Form 7509: The aircraft commander or agent must file Form 7509, *Air Cargo Manifest,* with CBP at the departure airport, or respondents may submit the information on this form using a CBP-approved electronic equivalent. CBP Form 7509 contains information about the cargo onboard the aircraft. This form, and/or electronic equivalent, is provided for by 19 CFR 122.35, 122.48, 122.48a, 122.52, 122.54, 122.73, 122.113, and 122.118 and is accessible at: *https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/publications/forms?title_1=7509.*

Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS): Respondents submit a subset of the required 19 CFR 122.48a data elements (ACAS Data) at the earliest point practicable prior to loading of the cargo onto the aircraft destined to or transiting through the United States. ACAS Data is transmitted via a CBP-approved electronic interchange system within prescribed time frames. Currently, the ACAS data consists of:

(1) Air waybill number
(2) Total quantity based on the smallest external packing unit
(3) Total weight of cargo
(4) Cargo description
(5) Shipper name and address
(6) Consignee name and address
(7) Master air waybill (MAWB) number (conditional)
(8) Second notify party (optional)
(9) Optional data elements listed in 19 CFR 122.48a may be provided on the ACAS timeframe:

a. Trip/flight number
b. Carrier/ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) code
c. Airport of arrival
d. Airport of origin
e. Scheduled date of arrival
f. Consolidation identifier
g. Split shipment indicator
h. Permit to proceed information
i. Identifier of other party which is to submit additional air waybill information
j. In-bond information
k. Local transfer facility
l. Flight departure message
m. In-bond information
n. The total quantity of the cargo covered by the house air waybill based on the smallest external packing unit
o. The total weight of the cargo covered by the house air waybill
p. Description
q. Permit-to-proceed information
r. Boarded quantity
s. Boarded weight

(10) Any additional information regarding ACAS data elements (optional)

Previously Approved Changes to ACAS:

Through the Enhanced ACAS interim final rule (IFR), CBP has amended its regulations to include additional data elements. The ACAS program enhances the security of flights carrying cargo into the United States by requiring the transmission of certain air cargo data and performing targeted risk assessments based on the transmitted data prior to an aircraft's departure for the United States. These risk assessments identify and prevent high-risk air cargo from being loaded onto an aircraft that could pose a risk to an aircraft during flight. In addition to the original ACAS data elements, Enhanced ACAS adds several mandatory and conditional data elements.

These additional data elements consist of:

(1) Consignee email address (mandatory)
(2) Consignee phone number (mandatory)
(3) Shipment packing location and/or scheduled shipment pickup location (mandatory)
(4) Ship to party (mandatory)
(5) Verified Known Consignor (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(6) Shipper email address (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(7) Shipper phone number (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(8) Customer account name (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(9) Customer account issuer (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(10) Customer account number (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(11) Customer account shipping frequency/volume (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(12) Customer account establishment date (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(13) Customer account billing type (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(14) Unmasked internet protocol (IP) address or media access control (MAC) address of the device used during account creation (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(15) Unmasked internet protocol (IP) address or media access control (MAC) address of the device used to initiate the shipping transaction and the unmasked IP address or MAC address of the device used to file the ACAS filing each time an ACAS filing is submitted (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(16) Shipping cost (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(17) Biographic data (conditional, mandatory in specific circumstances)
(18) Link to product listing and unmasked internet protocol (IP) address or media access control (MAC) address of the device used by the consignee to purchase the product (conditional, but mandatory in specific circumstances)

In tandem with the Enhanced ACAS interim final rule, CBP is also adding to the existing list of optional data elements that the public may provide at their discretion. CBP does not require trade members to provide this data.

The list of optional data elements consists of:

(1) Origin of Shipment
(2) Declared Value
(3) Harmonized Commodity Code (HTS–6 or HTS–10)
(4) Transaction Type (*e.g.,* B2B—business to business; B2C—business to consumer, etc.)
(5) Special Handling Type
(6) Customer Account Email Address
(7) Customer Account Phone Number
(8) Shipper Manufacturer Identification (MID) or Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Number
(9) Consignee Importer of Record number (or similar number)
(10) Regulated Agent Name, Address and Code
(11) ACAS Filing Type (*e.g.,* Standard, Express, eCommerce, Postal)

Type of Information Collection: Air Cargo Manifest (CBP Form 7509).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 215.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 6,821.

Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 1,466,400.

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 366,600.

Type of Information Collection: Air Cargo Advanced Screening (ACAS) Data.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 281.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 4,383,097.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 1,231,650,254.
Estimated Time per Response: 0 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 0.
Type of Information Collection: Enhanced Cargo Advanced Screening (ACAS) Data—Verified Known Consignors.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 281.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 4,383,097.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 1,231,650,254.
Estimated Time per Response: 0 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 0.
Type of Information Collection: Enhanced ACAS Data—Non-Verified Known Consignors.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 281.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 666,823.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 187,377,263.
Estimated Time per Response: 1 minute.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,122,954.
Type of Information Collection: Inward Cargo Manifest for Truck, Rail, Vehicles, Vessels, etc. (CBP Form 7533).
Estimated Number of Respondents: 33,000.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 292.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 9,629,400.
Estimated Time per Response: 6 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 962,940.
Type of Information Collection: Inward Cargo Declaration (CBP Form 1302).
Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 300.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 3,000,000.
Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,500,000.
Type of Information Collection: Export Cargo Declaration (CBP Form 1302A).
Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 400.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 200,000.
Estimated Time per Response: 3 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 10,000.
Type of Information Collection: Importer Security Filing.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 240,000.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 34.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 8,100,000.
Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 8,100,000.
Type of Information Collection: Vessel Stow Plan.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 163.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 109.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 17,767.
Estimated Time per Response: 2 hours.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 31,803.
Type of Information Collection: Container Status Messages.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 60.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 4,285,000.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 257,100,000.
Estimated Time per Response: 0.0056 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 23,996.
Type of Information Collection: Request for Manifest Confidentiality.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,040.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 5,040.
Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,260.
Type of Information Collection: Electronic Air Export Manifest.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 260.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 5,640.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 1,466,400.
Estimated Time per Response: 5 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 121,711.
Type of Information Collection: Electronic Ocean Export Manifest.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 400.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 200,000.
Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 100,000.
Type of Information Collection: Electronic Rail Export Manifest.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 7.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 598,830.
Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 4,191,810.
Estimated Time per Response: 0.52 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 36,329.

Seth D Renkema,

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Announcement of the National Customs Automation Program (NCAP) Test Regarding Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards for Crude Oil

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will conduct a National Customs Automation Program (NCAP) test of a new method of data collection, including the collection of new data, for crude oil transported via pipeline into the United States. The Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test will utilize data transmitted to the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) using unique entity identifiers and tamper-proof credentials documenting the movement (including ownership changes) of Canadian and Mexican crude oil for CBP review in near real time. This notice provides a description of the test, gives instructions regarding public involvement, and invites comments on all aspects of the test.

DATES: The Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test will commence on July 2, 2026, and will run for one year, subject to any extension, modification, or early termination as announced in the **Federal Register**.

Parties should contact CBP to indicate their interest in participating in the test beginning on June 2, 2026. Parties may join the test at any point until the test concludes. Public comments on the test are invited and may be submitted to the email address set forth below at any time during the test period.

ADDRESSES: Comments and questions concerning this notice, or any aspect of the test, may be submitted at any time before or during the test period via email to the Trade Modernization Division, Trade Programs, Office of Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at *otinnovation@cbp.dhs.gov,* with the subject line reading ''Comments/Questions on Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test.''

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For test-related questions, contact Marie Williams, Innovation Branch Chief, Trade Modernization Division, Trade Programs, Office of Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at 202–841–4859 or via email at *Marie.Williams@cbp.dhs.gov,* with the subject line reading ''Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test.''

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. The National Customs Automation Program

The National Customs Automation Program (NCAP) was established by Subtitle B of Title VI—Customs Modernization in the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Customs Modernization Act) (Pub. L. 103–182, 107 Stat. 2057, 2170, December 8, 1993) (19 U.S.C. 1411). Through NCAP, the thrust of customs modernization was focused on informed trade compliance and the development of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), the successor to the Automated Commercial System (ACS). ACE is an automated and electronic system for commercial trade processing, which has streamlined business processes, facilitated growth in trade, ensured cargo security, and fostered participation in global commerce, while facilitating compliance with U.S. laws and regulations and reducing costs for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and all of its communities of interest. The ability to continue meeting these objectives depends on successful modernization of CBP's business functions and the information technology that supports those functions. CBP's modernization efforts are accomplished through phased releases of ACE component functionality, which update the system and add new functionality.

Sections 411 through 414 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1411–1414), as amended, define and list the existing and planned components of the NCAP (Section 411), promulgate program goals (Section 412), provide for the implementation and evaluation of the program (Section 413), and provide for Remote Location Filing (Section 414). Section 411(a)(1)(A) lists the electronic entry of merchandise, Section 411(a)(1)(B) lists the electronic entry summary of required information, and Section 411(a)(1)(D) lists the electronic transmission of manifest information, as existing NCAP components. Section 411(d)(2)(A) provides for the periodic review of data elements collected in order to update the standard set of data elements, as necessary.

B. Crude Oil Tracing Issues

As a continuous flow commodity, a batch of crude oil (typically 60,000 barrels or more, and tied to a specific sales contract) travels at an approximate speed of 2 miles per hour (mph) through the pipeline, and thus can take weeks to travel through the North American pipeline network and days to cross the United States border, although importation occurs daily as the crude oil crosses into the Customs territory of the United States.[1] The network is comprised of pipelines operated by different entities, and batches of crude oil can be bought and sold several times after the oil is dispatched and while the oil itself is traveling through the network before it reaches the United States. Currently, CBP uses a mostly manual process to manage the requirements for crude oil transported through pipeline, such as tracking the volume of crude oil importations and tracing its origin.

Historically, importers of record of crude oil imported by pipeline filed daily entries for the flow of oil crossing into the United States.[2] In 1970, however, the U.S. Customs Service, CBP's predecessor, established a monthly consolidated entry program, which began with pilot programs in the Ports of Buffalo and Detroit and was then expanded to the entire country, allowing for monthly entry processing to handle repetitive, high-volume cross-border shipments of non-dutiable merchandise, including non-dutiable crude oil and natural gas. U.S. Customs Service, Circular ENT–1–AC (July 1, 1970) (hereinafter the ''1970 Circular'').[3] The monthly entry procedure is an arrangement whereby all shipments during a calendar month between one shipper and one importer through one port are treated for examination, entry and liquidation purposes as a single transaction or importation.[4] Although this program was not created specifically for pipelines, it is common practice for pipelines to use the monthly consolidated entry process.[5] And while the monthly consolidated entry program is optional, and participation is not required, most importers of crude oil choose to participate rather than being required to file daily entries.[6] The 1970 Circular was subsequently clarified with additional guidance issued in 1992 and 2006.[7] In accordance with this guidance, the monthly entry must be filed within 10 calendar days after the end of the month.[8]

Although pipeline operators (as carriers) are not required to file a manifest pursuant to Section 431 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. 1431, pipeline operators are

[1] *See, e.g.,* U.S. Customs & Border Protection, *Application for Further Review of Protest 3401–15–150003; CHS, Inc.; Merchandise Processing Fees; Pipeline,* HQ H272806 (Customs), 2024 WL 5146576, *4, 6 (May 14, 2024) (hereinafter ''HQ H272806'') (citing U.S. Customs & Border Protection, *Application for Further Review of Protest No. 0901–06–100085: Entry Requirements for Natural Gas Importations Made via Pipeline from Canada Pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement; Undecided Post Importation NAFTA Claim No. 0901–06–300312,* HQ W231489 (Customs), 2008 WL 2971868 (May 19, 2008) (hereinafter ''HQ W231489''); 19 U.S.C. 1484; T.D. 79–221 (July 17, 1979), 19 CFR 141.68, 142.2).

[2] HQ H272806, 2024 WL 5146576 at *3.

[3] *Entry of Merchandise: Monthly Consolidated Entry, CBP.GOV* (Jul. 1, 1970), *https://www.cbp.gov/trade/entry-summary/pipeline-monthly-entry-processing/consolidated-entry* (last accessed Jan. 20, 2026); *see also* HQ H272806, 2024 WL 5146576 at *3 (describing the same).

[4] HQ H272806, 2024 WL 5146576 at *6 (quoting 1970 Circular). The minimum number of shipments necessary to qualify for monthly entry are at least two shipments per week or seven shipments per calendar month. *Id.* (citing 1970 Circular).

[5] *See* 1970 Circular; HQ H272806, 2024 WL 5146576 at *3.

[6] *See* HQ H272806, 2024 WL 5146576 at *6 (noting that while ''the monthly consolidated entry program is optional, if [an importer] chooses to not participate or is unable to participate . . . , [the importer would be] required to file daily entries'').

[7] *See Id.* The 1992 clarification is available online. U.S. Customs & Border Protection, *Requirements for Pipeline Operators, CBP.GOV* (Dec. 22, 1992), *https://www.cbp.gov/trade/entry-summary/pipeline-monthly-entry-processing/pipeline-directors* (last accessed Jan. 20, 2026) (hereinafter ''1992 Guidance''); the 2006 clarification is available at *https://www.cbp.gov/trade/entry-summary/pipeline-monthly-entry-processing/entry-pipeline.*

[8] U.S. Customs & Border Protection, *Monthly Entry for Pipeline, CBP.GOV* (Apr. 10, 2006), *https://www.cbp.gov/trade/entry-summary/pipeline-monthly-entry-processing/entry-pipeline* (''In accordance with this guidance, manifests are to be submitted daily, and the monthly entry must be filed within 10 calendar days after the end of the month.'') (last accessed Jan. 20, 2026) (hereinafter ''2006 Guidance'').

required to maintain daily manifest records, and those records must be provided to CBP upon request in accordance with 19 U.S.C. 1508 and 1509, and part 163 of title 19 of the Code of Federal Regulations (19 CFR part 163).[9]

As background, prior to the late 1980s, the U.S. Customs Service monitored crude oil importations using analog meters and manual labor. For a given shipment, a U.S. Customs Inspector and pipeline operator representative typically met twice, by appointment, to jointly read a meter located near the border—once when a shipment began and again when it was closed—to establish an agreed upon volume of product for which U.S. Customs would require an entry. Throughout the early 1990s, industry gradually introduced remote, digital meters to replace the analog process. To maintain oversight as these changes occurred, individual U.S. Customs ports worked with local pipeline operators to develop activity reporting schemes using various combinations of paper manifests, delivery tickets, and/or monthly transaction lists on paper and (ultimately) electronic spreadsheets; these schemes were not standardized across the industry. To monitor compliance and ensure accurate volumes were reported, U.S. Customs reconciled the volumes of crude oil reported by the operators to the paper CBP Form 7512 (Transportation Entry and Manifest of Goods Subject to CBP Inspection and Permit) (if the product moved inland) or to entry transactions filed separately by importers, variously using the paper CBP Form 3461 (Entry/Immediate Delivery for ACE), CBP Form 7501 (Entry Summary), and/or direct a comparison to electronic entry summary data in the Automated Commercial System (ACS), the predecessor to ACE.

With passage of the Customs Modernization Act of 1993 (Mod Act),[10] it became more standard for U.S. Customs to accept industry recordkeeping practices as its baseline for compliance oversight. However, this created challenges for crude oil because the documentation provided to U.S. Customs, and now CBP, does not reflect a complete picture of ownership of a crude oil batch at any given time. Generally, on a monthly basis, pipeline operators provide CBP a report of the crude oil moved into the United States in accordance with the 1970 Circular and subsequent clarifying guidance.[11] These reports are delivered by the tenth calendar day of the month following arrival and are transmitted to CBP at the port of arrival as an email attachment or submitted in paper form. There is no standard format for these reports. The monthly reports list crude oil batches by volume and reflect ownership of the batches only at a particular point in time—the end of the month that covers the transaction.

CBP personnel at the port of arrival manually reconcile the crude oil volumes from monthly operator reports with the volumes reported on individual entry and admission filings covering the same period and location (*e.g.,* consumption entries, applications for admission to a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ), or in-bond transportation entries). In theory, the total volume reported by pipeline operators should match the sum total volume indicated on the individual entry and admission filings for the same period and location.

In practice, however, obtaining a baseline of data with regard to the changes in ownership that occur between commercial entities as the crude oil passes through the pipeline and tracing those exchanges to a monthly operator's pipeline report is exceptionally difficult and extremely labor intensive. As noted above, a batch of crude oil can take days to cross into the United States via pipeline. The slow speed of the crude oil poses issues each month as an individual entry or admission filing for a batch of crude oil may cover crude oil passing through the pipeline that straddles two months, limiting CBP's full visibility into its arrival due to the timing of the operator's monthly report because the report only includes data for crude oil that passed through prior to the end of a month. Moreover, industry practice to sell or swap fungible crude batches while in transit makes it difficult to identify the party responsible for filing the entry or admission for any given batch. The monthly operator's report does not account for ownership changes to a batch of crude oil that occur after the end of a given month, but the party filing an entry may not be the same owner as the one reflected in the report. Batches may also be subdivided while in transit and/or subject to last minute diversions to a new destination which can lead to volume-related reconciliation issues.

Further, there can be limitations on CBP's and the trade's visibility into the crude oil's origin and ownership throughout the supply chain. Supply chain traceability issues can arise in situations such as sales or re-sales, which result in the comingling of crude oil from different sources, thereby making tracing the origin of the imported crude oil difficult, which in turn presents challenges for verifying free trade agreement eligibility.

C. Silicon Valley Innovation Program

The Silicon Valley Innovation Program (SVIP), part of the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, helps find new technologies that strengthen national security with the goal of reshaping how government and industry work together to find cutting-edge solutions to challenges, such as those involved in pipeline-borne imports. For more information on SVIP, please see *https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/svip*. Neoflow, a private sector company and SVIP participant, built a platform to document the movement (including ownership changes) of crude oil in the pipeline environment. This test will use the Neoflow platform for the purposes stated below. For more information on Neoflow, please see *https://www.neoflow.energy/*.

D. Purpose of the Test

The purpose of the test is to evaluate the accuracy and usefulness of participant data regarding pipeline processes (*e.g.,* movement and sales) for crude oil being uploaded to the Neoflow platform and transmitted to the ACE Crude Oil testing environment using global interoperability standards, *i.e.,* specifications or rules for software development that enable different systems to connect and exchange data. The global interoperability standards, which are made up of decentralized identifiers (DIDs) and verifiable credentials (VCs), should help CBP in identifying legitimate products and associated companies resulting in a more transparent supply chain. DIDs are globally unique identifiers made up of a string of letters and numbers that can be used to recognize an entity on different networks. VCs are tamper-proof credentials with authorship that can be cryptographically verified. DIDs can be used to digitally sign and issue VCs, allowing CBP to more easily

[9] *See* HQ H272806, 2024 WL 5146576 at *6 (''Entry must be made for every importation through a pipeline. *See* 1992 Guidance. Daily manifests are required for pipeline entries. *See* 2006 Guidance. Although pipeline operators are not required to file those manifests with CBP, those records are to be made available to CBP upon request. *See* 1992 Guidance.''); 19 CFR 18.31(e) (''Recordkeeping. The shipper, pipeline operator, and consignee are subject to the recordkeeping requirements in 19 U.S.C. 1508 and 1509, as provided for in part 163 of this chapter.'').

[10] Public Law 103–182, 107 Stat. 2057 (December 8, 1993).

[11] Less commonly, pipeline operators may provide CBP with a batch-specific notice of arrival as it occurs.

confirm the authenticity of import data presented in this format.

In the test, CBP anticipates that global interoperability standards will enable test participants to record bilateral transaction data at each step in a supply chain (*e.g.,* both the pipeline operator and importer will upload respective documents pertaining to a completed delivery),[12] secure the transaction details from disclosure to unauthorized parties, allow dynamic updates of ownership and destination information, and make this data available to CBP in near real time. Moreover, during the test, CBP will have the ability to view actions related to the movement, transfer, and ownership of crude oil throughout the supply chain that test participants upload to the Neoflow platform for any filing (*e.g.,* consumption entries, applications for admission to an FTZ, or in-bond transportation entries).

CBP will review the data received over the course of the test and determine its usefulness for a range of possible purposes including, but not limited to, further test expansion, regulatory updates, supply chain visibility, monthly pipeline report reconciliation, and free trade agreement compliance, such as evaluating compliance with country of origin certification requirements. CBP will publish technical specifications for the pipeline global interoperability standards necessary to participate in this test on CBP website at *https://trade.cbp.dhs.gov/ace/developer/interoperability/.*

As discussed further below, participants will upload relevant data regarding the movement, sale, and entry of crude oil, to include an entry for consumption, admission to an FTZ, or transportation in-bond, into the Neoflow platform where CBP can view the uploaded information in near real time. It is important to note that all participants must continue to provide all required data to CBP in accordance with the current regulatory requirements, *e.g.,* for entry, FTZ admission, and in-bond movement/entries, as well as the monthly pipeline operator reports (in accordance with the above-mentioned CBP guidance), in addition to providing the information via the test procedures.

The Neoflow platform will ingest and format the data uploaded by test participants and transmit the data to CBP via the ACE Crude Oil testing environment. Subsequently, CBP will compare the data transmitted via the Neoflow platform to the data which is provided to CBP in accordance with current regulatory requirements and the monthly operator reports in order to evaluate the accuracy and usefulness of the data transmitted via the Neoflow platform pursuant to this test. Accordingly, no regulatory requirements are being waived as part of this test and pipeline operators should continue to submit monthly reports as usual.

During the test, CBP will evaluate whether the data uploaded to the Neoflow platform for formatting and transmission to the ACE Crude Oil testing environment enables the tracking of the entire volume of a batch of crude oil transiting to or through the United States by compiling data from the relevant supply chain parties. Such tracking should facilitate a more manageable and timely reconciliation process each month and provide CBP with greater visibility into the crude oil in transit, including its ownership. This improved reconciliation process should lead to easier verification of the data reported to CBP with entry, FTZ admission, and in-bond filings, and greater accountability while ensuring that the relevant parties are known to CBP in a more timely manner.

E. Data Transmission

Test participant importers, pipeline operators, and licensed customs brokers will upload the specified documentation and information to the Neoflow platform in near real time as specific events or transactions occur for pipeline processes relevant to crude oil from Canada and Mexico destined for the United States. The Neoflow platform will format the uploaded documentation and information and transmit the formatted data to the ACE Crude Oil testing environment utilizing DIDs and VCs.

In general, importers (or their brokers) and pipeline operators utilize similar documents to record and track the movement of batches of crude oil through pipeline networks, which typically begins at a consolidation hub. While there may be minor differences between the exact format of the documentation to be uploaded to the Neoflow platform (*e.g.,* Portable Document Format (PDF) file or Comma Separated Values (CSV) file), the documents to be uploaded will contain specific data sets relevant to this test. Neoflow will work with the participants to ensure the documentation is uploaded successfully into the Neoflow platform regardless of format.

Participants will upload the following documentation and information, which are generally used within the pipeline industry, into the Neoflow platform:

Consolidated Delivery Schedule. This is a file that the pipeline operator creates, outlining the volume of crude oil that it has scheduled for delivery for that month. Each importer is able to view on the pipeline operator's web portal the volume that is scheduled to ship for the importer's account on that pipeline for that month. During the test, this file will be uploaded by the pipeline operator to the Neoflow platform.

Delivery Schedule. This is a file that is downloaded from the pipeline operator's web portal that outlines the details of each batch of crude oil that the importer is moving on that pipeline system. During the test, this file will be uploaded by the importer to the Neoflow platform.

Pipeline Delivery Ticket. This is a file that the pipeline operator generates and makes available to the importer after a batch of oil has been delivered to the importer in the United States. It outlines the details of that batch of delivered crude oil. During the test, this file will be uploaded by both the importer and the pipeline operator to the Neoflow platform.

In-transit Sale Notification (new or updated Delivery Schedule). The pipeline operator is notified by the parties involved in an in-transit sale of crude oil as the party who takes ownership of the oil in an in-transit sale is generally responsible for paying the freight charge to the pipeline operator. A new or updated Delivery Schedule is created to reflect the updated information as a result of an in-transit transaction. The test participant who is the seller in the relevant in-transit transaction will cancel or remove the batch from the Delivery Schedule that was previously uploaded to the Neoflow platform. If participating in the test, the buyer will upload its Delivery Schedule to the Neoflow platform. If the buyer is not a test participant, then no further information regarding that batch of crude oil will be uploaded to the Neoflow platform. It is important to note that CBP will retain access to the information (as shown in the tables below) because canceling or removing the batch from the Delivery Schedule will not delete the information from the Neoflow platform.

The information uploaded to the Neoflow platform is traceable to each submitting party and batch of crude oil using the global interoperability standards to create entity- and transaction-specific identifiers.

Once the documentation and information are uploaded to the

[12] ''Delivery'' occurs when the recipient of the crude oil takes possession, and the crude oil is no longer in possession of the pipeline operator.

Neoflow platform, the formatting and transmission to the ACE Crude Oil testing environment occurs in near real time and CBP will be able to view this data as part of this test. When the importer or the importer's broker transmits the entry number and filer code, or a filing for FTZ admission or in-bond movement/entry, to the ACE Crude Oil testing environment, the data from the documentation and information previously uploaded to the Neoflow platform for the relevant batch of crude oil covered by that filing will automatically populate in the ACE Crude Oil testing environment. Viewing the test data in the ACE Crude Oil testing environment will enable CBP to compare it to the data CBP collects under the current regulatory framework, including for entry, FTZ admission, and in-bond movements/entry, as well as the monthly pipeline operator reports submitted by operators, more efficiently.

While there may be overlapping data provided at different times when both the importer and pipeline operator upload documentation to the Neoflow platform, this data will aid in the tracking of the product throughout the pipeline lifecycle. Moreover, the overlap of data elements by the parties involved in the event or transaction may provide mutual validation. When aggregated, this uploaded event and transaction data should match the relevant data submitted to CBP in accordance with current statutory and regulatory requirements, and CBP will evaluate whether it matches as part of this test.

In the current environment, the delivery schedules containing the data elements to be uploaded into Neoflow (and reflected in the tables below) are summarized in the monthly pipeline operator reports, but the schedules themselves are only provided to CBP upon request, and thus, under current practice, CBP does not have access to those documents without specifically requesting them or in near real time as it will under the test. The tables below represent an overview of the data elements currently exchanged by private parties (*e.g.,* operators and importers) in a crude oil supply chain and will become discrete data points required by CBP as part of the test. In addition, test participants will agree under the test to standardize the information in the reports that must be submitted to CBP in order to provide more accurate information on the oil that passes through the pipelines and is entered into the United States.

The first column in the tables below entitled ''Data Elements'' lists the current data elements supporting an entry or admission filing for crude oil (*e.g.,* consumption entries, applications for admission to an FTZ, or in-bond transportation entries), which will also be entered on the Neoflow platform as part of the test. The second column, ''Description,'' provides a brief description of the data element; the third column, Uploading Party, indicates which party will provide that same data element under the test by uploading the relevant document containing the data element to the Neoflow platform; and the last column, ''Document Source,'' provides the name of the document from which the data element is obtained under the test. CBP is evaluating whether the data collection and transmission process under this test could replace or supplement existing regulatory requirements for crude oil including for entry, FTZ admission, and in-bond movements/entry. The documents are to be uploaded by test participants in real time when the relevant supply chain events or transactions occur. The data elements below are those that will be viewable in the Neoflow platform [13] and which Neoflow will format and transmit to the ACE Crude Oil testing environment. In addition to the data elements listed in the tables below, CBP will also collect new data elements as part of this test, which can be found in the tab entitled ''Data Definitions'' at *https://trade.cbp.dhs.gov/ace/developer/interoperability.* The word ''Aggregation'' indicates that the Neoflow platform compiles data for submission to CBP in the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) format. Where the term ''Free Text'' appears in the left most column, the data is consistently provided to CBP as part of the current process that the ports use to collect pipeline oil documents. The terms ''Quantity'' and ''Volume'' are used interchangeably in this **Federal Register** notice.

Data element	Description	Uploading party	Document source
Importer Pre-Arrival Information			
District/Port of Entry	Port where merchandise is entered (under entry for consumption or immediate delivery permit).	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Estimated Date of Export	Scheduled Injection Date (date crude oil is scheduled to be injected into the pipeline).	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Carrier Code	Entity responsible for transporting merchandise from foreign port of lading to first U.S. port of unlading (Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC)).	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Estimated Date of Entry	Date merchandise arrived or expected to arrive at port of entry	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Batch Number	Free Text field to record batch number	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) Classification.	HTSUS—10 digits	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Foreign Port of Lading Code	Foreign port where merchandise laden	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Quantity	Net Quantity expressed in HTSUS unit of measurement (barrels)	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Country of Export Code	Country from which article was shipped to the United States	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Date of Export	Date the batch began injection to the pipeline for shipment to the United States.	Importer	Delivery Schedule.
Importer Post-Arrival Information			
District/Port of Entry	Port where merchandise is entered for consumption (under entry or immediate delivery permit).	Importer	Delivery Confirmation.
Date of Importation	Date merchandise arrived within the Customs territory of the United States.	Importer	Delivery Confirmation.
Carrier Code	Entity responsible for transporting merchandise from foreign port of lading to first U.S. port of unlading (Carrier SCAC code).	Importer	Delivery Confirmation.
Estimated Date of Arrival	Date merchandise arrived or expected to arrive at port of entry	Importer	Delivery Confirmation.
Bill of Lading (Free Text)	Free Text field to record batch # and ticket # for crude oil	Importer	Delivery Confirmation.

[13] CBP may review data elements directly in the Neoflow platform if CBP detects inaccuracies, inconsistencies or omissions when comparing the information submitted to CBP in the current environment (*e.g.,* an entry filing) with the data entered into the Neoflow platform by test participants and transmitted to the ACE Crude Oil testing environment.

Data element	Description	Uploading party	Document source
Entry Filer Code	3-character filer code	Broker or Importer	Entered into Neoflow Platform.
Entry Number	Unique 7-digit identifying number assigned by filer plus 1 check digit.	Broker or Importer	Entered into Neoflow Platform.
Pipeline Operator Pre-Arrival Information			
Carrier Code	Carrier SCAC code	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
In-bond Carrier ID	Carrier Bond Number	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Country Code of Importing Carrier	Canada or Mexico	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Importing Conveyance Name	Pipeline Name	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Foreign Port of Lading	Foreign Port of Lading	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
U.S. Port of Destination	Port of Termination (In-bond entry type 61—Immediate Transportation).	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Estimated Date of Arrival	Date merchandise arrived or expected to arrive at port of entry for consumption.	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Quantity	Aggregation	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Manifest Quantity	Aggregation	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Consignee	Aggregation (Count of Consignees)	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Schedule.
Pipeline Operator Post-Arrival Information			
Carrier Code	Carrier SCAC code	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
In-bond Carrier ID	Carrier Bond Number	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Importing Conveyance Name	Pipeline Name	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Quantity	Total Delivered Volume for month (barrels)	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Per Batch Information To Confirm Delivery of Volume			
Foreign Port of Lading	Foreign port where merchandise laden	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
U.S. Port of Destination	Port of Termination (In-bond entry type 61—Immediate Exportation).	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Foreign Port of Destination	Port of Exportation (In-bond entry type 62—Transportation & Exportation).	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Date of Arrival	Delivery Date	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Quantity	Delivered Volume (net) (barrels)	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Consignee	Consignee	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Ticket Number (Free Text)	Combination batch number and delivery ticket	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Trade Name and Density (Free Text)	Trade Name and Density of the crude oil	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.
Date of Export	Date the batch began injection to the pipeline for shipment to the United States.	Pipeline Operator	Delivery Confirmation.

II. Authorization for the Test

The Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test is authorized pursuant to 19 CFR 101.9(b), which provides for the testing of planned NCAP components. *See* T.D. 95–21, 60 FR 14211 (March 16, 1995); *see also* 19 U.S.C. 1411–1413.

III. Conditions for the Test

A. Participation in the Test

The test is voluntary, and importers of record, pipeline operators, and licensed customs brokers involved in the importation of crude oil from Canada or Mexico interested in assisting in evaluating the usefulness of the global interoperability standards may submit a request to participate in the test. As discussed above in section I.E., if a batch of crude oil is sold while in-transit on the pipeline, the seller (who may have originally qualified to serve as the importer of record but for the in-transit sale) will no longer be a participant in the test or provide data via the Neoflow platform. (Because the new buyer in that in-transit sale may or may not be a test participant, it is possible that CBP will no longer receive test data from a participant after the in-transit sale.)

Interested parties must contact CBP to indicate their willingness to participate in the test at *OTInnovation@cbp.dhs.gov.* CBP will notify interested parties whether they have been approved to participate in the test and will provide a list of approved participants to Neoflow. CBP will provide approved participants with information on obtaining access to the Neoflow platform for crude oil. Participants must comply with any terms and conditions set forth as part of their access and use of the Neoflow platform, as established between Neoflow and the participant(s). Test participants will coordinate with Neoflow's technical teams to ensure system compatibility. Additional technical support will be provided throughout the test by both CBP and Neoflow, as needed. Neoflow will provide interested parties with specific information regarding costs prior to commencing participation; the terms, conditions and costs of a participant's access to and use of the Neoflow platform, including for purposes of participating in this test, shall be established solely between Neoflow and the participant; CBP will not be a party to such terms or conditions or responsible for any costs.

Once a participant is approved by CBP and establishes the necessary access to the Neoflow platform with Neoflow, test participants will have the opportunity to utilize the Neoflow platform and give feedback to CBP throughout the duration of the test.

Under this test, CBP does not intend to take enforcement action based solely on discrepancies or inaccuracies in the data CBP receives as part of this test via the Neoflow platform. However, discrepancies or inaccuracies between the data transmitted via the Neoflow platform as part of this test and data that is ultimately filed under the current regulatory framework (*e.g.,* in an entry, FTZ admission or in-bond movement/entry) or a monthly pipeline operator's report will be evaluated to determine the basis for the discrepancy or inaccuracy and CBP may request additional information to resolve the discrepancy or inaccuracy.

B. CBP Access to Underlying Data

As part of the test, CBP has entered into an agreement with Neoflow for access to the data that is provided by and associated with the participants.

Consistent with the agreement, CBP may access the Neoflow platform to monitor and evaluate the data provided by test participants for any lawful purpose. The data will assist CBP in evaluating possible uses of the data to support product and entity identification, product tracing, supply chain data verification, comparison with other data submitted to CBP (including data submitted as part of an entry, FTZ admission, or in-bond filing), and enforcement, among other purposes.

C. Partner Government Agencies (PGAs)

CBP may utilize this test to enhance trade data sharing and access between CBP and partner government agencies (PGAs). CBP will announce any PGAs that will receive data pursuant to the test in a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

D. Duration of Test

The test will commence on July 2, 2026, and is scheduled to run for one year, subject to any extension, early termination, or modification, including possible data integration with ACE or testing of data related to additional commodities that arrive via pipeline, as announced by way of a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

E. Misconduct Under the Test

Misconduct under the test may include, but is not limited to, submitting false information through the Neoflow platform or failing to abide by the terms and conditions regarding the test and use of the Neoflow platform. As stated above, test participants are expected to adhere to all applicable regulatory requirements because CBP is not waiving any regulations as part of this test.

If CBP determines that there is a basis to discontinue a participant's involvement in the test, CBP will provide written notice, via email, proposing the discontinuance with a description of the facts or conduct supporting the proposal. The test participant will be offered the opportunity to respond in writing within ten business days of the date of the written notice. The response must be submitted to the Innovation Branch Chief by email to *OTInnovation@cbp.dhs.gov,* with a subject line reading ''Appeal—Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test Discontinuance.''

The Director, Trade Modernization Division, Trade Programs, Office of Trade (OT), will issue a final decision on the proposed action within 30 business days after receiving a timely filed response from the test participant, unless such time is extended for good cause. If no timely response is received, the proposed notice becomes the final decision of CBP as of the date that the response period expires. A proposed discontinuance of a test participant's privileges will not take effect unless the response process under this paragraph has been concluded with a written decision that is adverse to the test participant, which will be provided via email.

F. Confidentiality

Data submitted and entered into the Neoflow platform and transmitted to CBP in the ACE Crude Oil testing environment may include confidential commercial or financial information which may be protected under the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905), and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). However, participation in this test is not confidential and, therefore, upon receipt of a written Freedom of Information Act request, the name(s) of an approved participant(s) will be disclosed by CBP in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552.

IV. Comments on the Test

All interested parties are invited to comment on any aspect of this test at any time. CBP requests comments and feedback on all aspects of this test, including the design, conduct and implementation of the test, in order to determine whether to modify, alter, expand, limit, continue, end, or fully implement this program. Comments should be submitted via email to *OTinnovation@cbp.dhs.gov,* with the subject line reading ''Comments on Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test.''

V. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)) requires that CBP consider the impact of paperwork and other information collection burdens imposed on the public. An agency may not conduct, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid control number assigned by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The new collection of information gathered under this test has been approved by OMB in accordance with the requirements of the PRA and assigned OMB control number 1651–0148.

VI. Evaluation Criteria

The test is intended to evaluate the accuracy and usefulness of the global interoperability standards and Neoflow platform for data collection of pipeline processes relevant to crude oil. CBP will evaluate the data viewed via the Neoflow platform to determine if it would aid CBP in enforcing applicable laws, protecting the revenue, reducing risk, and improving compliance operations. Moreover, CBP will evaluate if the Neoflow platform could continue CBP's trade modernization efforts by reducing the need for paper/near paper-based filings and other submissions via possible ACE integration. CBP's evaluation of the test, including the review of any comments submitted to CBP during the duration of the test, will be ongoing with a view to possible extension or expansion of the test.

At the conclusion of the Pipeline Global Interoperability Standards Test, an evaluation will be conducted to assess the accuracy and usefulness of the information received throughout the course of the test. The final results of the evaluation will be published in the **Federal Register** as required by section 101.9(b)(2) of the CBP regulations (19 CFR 101.9(b)(2)).

Susan S. Thomas,

Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade.

[FR Doc. 2026–10979 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–14–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. CISA–2026–0034]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Evaluation of Emergency Communications Division Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program Training Program

AGENCY: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: 60-Day notice and request for comments; new collection (request for a new OMB control number, 1670–NEW)

SUMMARY: The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)/Program Analysis & Evaluation (PA&E) within Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency CISA submits the following Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number Docket # CISA–2026–0034, by following the instructions below for submitting comment via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *http://www.regulations.gov.*

Instructions: All comments received must include the agency name and docket number Docket # CISA–2026–0034. All comments received will be posted without change to *http://www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to *http://www.regulations.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yunsoo Park, 202–766–0098, *Yunsoo.Park@cisa.dhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (*Pub. L. 115–435*), or the Evidence Act, promotes the use of evidence to inform decision-making and requires federal agencies to undertake activities toward this end. Specifically, the Evidence Act requires agencies to develop Learning Agendas and Annual Evaluation Plans.

CISA's Learning Agenda questions are documented in the DHS FY 2022–2026 Learning Agenda. In addition, its evaluations are included in the DHS Annual Evaluation Plans, indicating that the Department has recognized those evaluations as ''significant.'' The evaluation of the Emergency Communications Division (ECD COMU) Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) Training Program is one such significant evaluation and was included in the DHS FY 2023 Annual Evaluation Plan. CISA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)/Program Analysis & Evaluation (PA&E) Division (and any contractors, as applicable) will be conducting this evaluation study.

Evaluation of Emergency Communications Division (ECD COMU) Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) Training Program

For over fifteen years, ICTAP has trained people in seven core specialties to create a cadre of emergency communication professionals. The long-term goal of the communication training program is to prepare and support a population of responders to fill critical emergency communications response roles in federal, state, local, and tribal territory partner organizations. The intended result is a qualified group of credentialed responders that can enable continuity of communications during a catastrophic incident or event. Achieving this goal is dependent on whether the training participants continue in the credentialling pipeline after attending the training to achieve higher levels of qualification for advanced emergency communication specific roles.

The purpose of the evaluation is to understand the extent to which the COMU ICTAP training program creates, maintains, and deploys a qualified group of credentialed responders. The following questions guide the current evaluation:

1. To what extent does the Communications Unit (COMU) training enable and support interested state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) stakeholders to officially qualify for and earn COMU credentials? Are there points of relative strength and weakness in the training and the credentialing pipeline, and how does this vary by credential?

2. To what extent do COMU training and program attendees apply delivered principles after receiving training to enhance interoperability or integrated, collaborative communications planning? What factors enable or impede application of the principles?

3. To what extent, and in what ways, does the COMU position-specific training contribute to enhanced interoperability and integrated collaborative communication planning in federal and SLTT partner organizations?

This is a new information collection. Information will be collected by CISA PA&E (and any contractors, as applicable) using surveys and interviews. The potential respondent universe for this study consists of all adults who took one or more emergency communications trainings through the ECD ICTAP program between 2007 and 2022.

The burden for respondents will be minimized by restricting the survey and interview length, by conducting interviews at times convenient for respondents, and by not requiring record-keeping or written responses on the part of the respondents. The evaluation team will only request information required for the purposes of the evaluation.

Surveys. The online survey will be created and sent using Qualtrics, a survey software. The evaluation team will provide a link via email that participants can use to access and complete the survey using a tablet, smartphone, or laptop. Electronic submission will ensure the maximum response rate while also permitting respondents to complete the survey at a time of their own choosing.

The survey will ask questions on the following topics: (1) attainment of additional credentials after taking the initial training, (2) whether they are working in the field, (3) factors that hindered their ability to perform the role they trained for and/or attain additional credentials, and (4) factors that aided their ability to perform the role they trained for and/or attain additional credentials.

Interviews. The evaluation team will also conduct interviews with up to 100 participants who complete the online survey and agree to participate in the interview. The interviews will be conducted by telephone or via a web-based conference call platform, such as Microsoft Teams, at a time that is most convenient for participants

The interviews will collect in-depth information about: (1) whether trainees are working in the field they prepared for and how much the training prepared them for working in the field, (2) potential facilitators and barriers to attaining qualifications, (3) whether their training enhanced interoperability and integrated collaborative communication planning in their organization, (4) whether the training and credentialling process overall contributes to enhanced interoperability and integrated collaborative communication planning in federal and SLTT partner organizations. Some topics will intentionally be addressed in both the survey and interview, since the interviews will provide more depth and context for understanding the information collected in the surveys.

Without collecting this information, CISA will not meet the requirements of the Evidence Act to conduct program evaluations—particularly, this evaluation, which was included in the Department of Homeland Security FY 2023 Annual Evaluation Plan as a ''significant'' evaluation. Without collecting this information, CISA stakeholders will not be able to understand the availability, readiness, and use of trainees for specific types of COMU roles and how they enrich communications planning in federal and SLTT partner organizations. Thus, we will not have the information needed to learn how CISA and DHS can update training products and services, recommend improvements to the National Incident Management System and Incident Command Systems architecture, and better assist partner organizations in prioritizing and addressing COMU gaps. Without collecting this information, we will not be able to assess how to best engage

federal and SLTT partner organizations, as well as technical assistance providers, to improve plans that build and sustain capabilities to maintain readiness.

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Analysis

Agency: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Title: Evaluation of Emergency Communications Division (ECD COMU Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) Training Program.

OMB Number: 1670–NEW.

Frequency: Once.

Affected Public: Emergency Communications Professionals who attended ICTAP Trainings between 2007 and 2022.

Number of Respondents: 16,206.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 0.333 hours per survey; 0.875 hours per interview.

Total Burden Hours: 5,456.17 hours.

Total Annual Burden Cost: $259,310.52.

Total Annual Government Burden Cost: $285,814.70.

Winfield P. Werntz,

Acting Chief Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

[FR Doc. 2026–10960 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–LF–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. CISA–2024–0034]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Under the Paperwork Reduction Act: Request for the ChemLock Program

AGENCY: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: 30-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Infrastructure Security Division (ISD) within Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) will submit the following Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The submission proposes a new information collection to support the ChemLock Program. CISA previously published this ICR in the **Federal Register** on December 31, 2024, for a 60-day public comment period.[1] No comments were received by CISA in response to the 60-day request for comments.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until July 2, 2026. Submissions received after the deadline for receiving comments may not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function. All submissions received must include the agency name ''CISA'' and docket number CISA–2024–0034.

Comments that include protected information such as trade secrets, confidential commercial or financial information, Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI),[2] Sensitive Security Information (SSI),[3] or Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII)[4] should not be submitted to the public docket. Comments containing protected information should be appropriately marked and coordinated with the point of contact for this notice provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Annie Hunziker Boyer, 703–603–5000, *CISARegulations@mail.cisa.dhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Congress established the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Act of 2018, Public Law 115–278 (2018). As part of CISA's responsibilities, Congress authorized CISA to provide analyses, expertise, and other assistance to critical infrastructure owners and operators upon request. 6 U.S.C. 652(c)(5).

CISA serves as Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for the Chemical Sector. CISA has established ChemLock, which is voluntary program for facilities that possess dangerous chemicals. This ICR consolidates and clarifies CISA collection of information in support of ChemLock. While some ChemLock services are currently available leveraging other approved information collections, this ICR when approved, will allow for an additional ChemLock service.

CISA proposes three instruments within this information collection: (1) ChemLock Request for Services; (2) ChemLock Service Registration and Preparation; and (3) ChemLock Service Feedback.

ChemLock Program Request for Services

This instrument collects basic contact information from individuals requesting a ChemLock service such as: (a) security consultations; (b) technical consultations, (c) onsite assessments and assistance, (d) exercises and drills, (e) training courses, (f) access to other tailored resources, and (g) risk assessments. In addition, the instrument will collect facility identifying information, facility description information, and information about the chemicals present at the facility.

[1] The **Federal Register** notice soliciting public comment for 60 days about the proposed ChemLock ICR was published on December 31, 2024 at 89 FR 107154 and may be viewed at *https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/31/2024-31370/notice-of-proposed-information-collection-under-the-paperwork-reduction-act-request-for-the-chemlock.*

[2] For more information about CVI see 6 CFR 27.400 and the CVI Procedural Manual at *www.dhs.gov/publication/safeguarding-cvi-manual.*

[3] For more information about SSI see 49 CFR part 1520 and the SSI Program web page at *www.tsa.gov/for-industry/sensitive-security-information.*

[4] For more information about PCII see 6 CFR part 29 and the PCII Program web page at *www.dhs.gov/pcii-program.*

ChemLock Service Registration and Preparation

This instrument collected information to enable the ChemLock services which need additional information to be performed. The ChemLock services which need additional information to be performed are security consultations, onsite assessments and assistance, and risk assessments.

ChemLock Service Feedback Collection

This instrument will collect information related to feedback about ChemLock related services such as: which ChemLock service was provided and when, program outcomes, satisfaction, and performance of the staff involved in providing the ChemLock service.

Analysis

Agency: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Title of Collection: ChemLock.

OMB Control Number: 1670–NEW.

Instrument: ChemLock Program Request for Services.

Frequency: ''On occasion'' and ''Other.''

Affected Public: State, local, Tribal, and Territorial governments and private sector individuals.

Number of Respondents: 450 respondents (estimate).

Estimated Time per Respondent: 0.25 hour.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 112.50 hours.

Total Annual Burden Cost: $10,838.06.

Total Annual Burden Cost (capital/startup): $0.

Total Recordkeeping Burden: $0.

Instrument: ChemLock Service Registration and Preparation.

Frequency: ''On occasion'' and ''Other.''

Affected Public: State, local, Tribal, and Territorial governments and private sector.

Number of Respondents: 300 (estimate).

Estimated Time per Respondent: 3.17 hours.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 952 hours.

Total Annual Burden Cost: $91,714.10.

Total Annual Burden Cost (capital/startup): $0.

Total Recordkeeping Burden: $0.

Instrument: ChemLock Service Feedback.

Frequency: ''On occasion'' and ''Other.''

Affected Public: State, local, Tribal, and Territorial governments and private sector.

Number of Respondents: 225 (estimate).

Estimated Time per Respondent: 0.25 hour.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 56.26 hours.

Total Annual Burden Cost: $5,419.03.

Total Annual Burden Cost (capital/startup): $0.

Total Recordkeeping Burden: $0.

Winfield P Werntz,

Acting Chief Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

[FR Doc. 2026–10959 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–LF–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2026–0859; FXES11140600000–267–FF06E15000]

North Dakota Petroleum Council, North Dakota; Multi-Project Habitat Conservation Plan for the Dakota Skipper, Draft Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of documents related to an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC) is applying for a permit associated with incidental take of the Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) during above-ground activities associated with the development of oil and gas projects in North Dakota. NDPC has submitted a new application for a 30-year ITP, including the Dakota Skipper Multi-Project Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and associated documents and appendices. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant's revised HCP and the Service's draft environmental assessment, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The Service provides this notice to seek comments from the public and Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments.

DATES: We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before July 2, 2026. Comments submitted online at *https://www.regulations.gov* (see **ADDRESSES**) must be received by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on the closing date.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: Electronic copies of the documents this notice announces, along with public comments received, will be available online in Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2026–0859 at *https://www.regulations.gov.*

Submitting Comments: All submissions must include the docket number [FWS–R6–ES–2026–0859] for this document. To submit written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information requests or comments are in reference to the NDPC HCP.

- *Online: https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments to Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2026–0859.
- *U.S. Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2026–0859; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered. We will not accept comments via email, fax, or hand delivery. We are not required to consider comments that are submitted after the comment period ends or that are submitted via a method outside of these instructions. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate content will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Luke Toso, by phone at (701) 355–8528 or by email at *Luke_Toso@fws.gov.* Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TTD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the Dakota Skipper Multi-Project Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Draft Environmental Assessment (draft EA), and associated documents related to the North Dakota Petroleum Council's (NDPC) application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). NDPC applied for a 30-year ITP to seek authorization for incidental take of the Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae;* DASK) that may be associated with oil and gas development projects by NDPC

member companies in North Dakota. If granted, the ITP would authorize incidental take of DASK resulting from the HCP's covered activities. The proposed HCP has a programmatic structure that establishes a standardized conservation strategy and defines a process to enroll multiple similar projects under a single incidental take permit through Certificates of Inclusion over the 30-year permit term. The draft EA analyzes the effects of the proposed action and the no-action alternative.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the taking of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The ESA defines ''take'' to mean to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The Service may issue permits, under limited circumstances, to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b) and 17.32(b)) provide for authorizing incidental take of listed species. Issuance of an ITP also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species, pursuant to section 7 of the ESA and 50 CFR 402.02. The permittee would receive assurances under our ''No Surprises'' regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Project Information

The NDPC has requested take authorization of DASK that may result from covered activities associated with oil and gas development in the Plan Area, which is the State of North Dakota. Covered activities include those associated with above-ground pre-construction and exploration actions, construction, operation and maintenance, decommissioning, and reclamation for multiple future projects. Under the programmatic structure of the HCP, the NDPC is the master permit holder. Individual projects seeking coverage under the HCP would prepare an application package to demonstrate their plan to implement the conservation strategies set forth in the HCP, submit that application package to the NDPC, and receive a Certificate of Inclusion. The Certificate of Inclusion then extends the DASK take authorization of the HCP and ITP to the Certificate of Inclusion holder for the individual project.

The ITP, if issued, would authorize take of the DASK that may occur incidental to the covered activities. The HCP describes the covered activities, the anticipated impacts to DASK from the covered activities, and the measures that NDPC and Certificate of Inclusion holders will implement to minimize and mitigate such impacts. The HCP also describes the environmental setting and biological resources in the Plan Area, the biological goals and objectives of the HCP, monitoring, adaptive management, and funding assurances.

National Environmental Policy Act Background

The draft EA analyzes the effects of the proposed action, which is issuance of the ITP and the implementation of the proposed programmatic HCP. The draft EA also analyzes the no-action alternative, which is the denial of the programmatic permit application and the consideration of individual ITP applications for proposed projects instead.

The potential issuance of the ITP is considered a Federal action under NEPA, and we determined that preparation of an EA to analyze the potential impacts on the human (biological, physical, social, and economic) environment caused by the project was appropriate. The draft EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA, and the most recent associated regulations, and the procedures set forth in the Department of the Interior's NEPA Handbook.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—might be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2026–0859, at *https://www.regulations.gov/*.

Next Steps and Decision to be Made

We will make a permit decision based on the statutory and regulatory criteria of ESA Section 10(a), informed by the permit application, HCP, and any public comments. This determination will also include our compliance with Section 7 of the ESA through an intra-Service consultation. We will rely on the results of this consultation, our NEPA analyses, and the findings on permit issuance criteria to decide whether to issue the permit with appropriate terms and conditions.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32), National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Service's implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 46).

Marjorie Nelson,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Mountain-Prairie Region.

[FR Doc. 2026–10995 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–HQ–ES–2026–1124; FXES111609C0000–267–FF09E41000; OMB Control Number 1018–0094]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Applications and Reports—Native Endangered and Threatened Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before August 3, 2026. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES**, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on the closing date. To ensure your comment is received and considered, you must submit it using one of the methods identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: *Comment submission:* All submissions must include the docket number [FWS–HQ–ES–2026–1124] for this document. You must submit comments using one of the following methods:

- *Electronic submission:* Federal eRulemaking Portal at: *https://*

www.regulations.gov. In the Search box, enter FWS–HQ–ES–2026–1124, which is the docket number for this action. Then click the Search button. On the resulting page, you may submit a comment by clicking on ''Comment.'' Please ensure that you have found the correct document before submitting your comments.

• *U.S. mail:* Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, Attn: Docket No. FWS–HQ–ES–2026–1124, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

Comments submitted through any method not authorized in this document, or sent to an address not listed here, will not be considered. We will not accept comments via email, fax, or hand delivery. We are not required to consider comments that are submitted after the comment period ends or that are submitted via a method outside of these instructions. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate content will not be considered. We will post all comments at *https://www.regulations.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madonna Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at *Info_Coll@fws.gov,* or by telephone at (703) 358–2503. Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 for TTY assistance. You may also view the information collection request (ICR) at *http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR described below. We are especially interested in public comments addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: The Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) provides a means to conserve the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend, to provide a program for the conservation of these endangered and threatened species, and to take the appropriate steps that are necessary to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point where measures provided for under the ESA are no longer necessary. Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes us to issue permits for otherwise prohibited activities in order to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA authorizes us to issue permits if the taking is incidental to the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. ESA section 10(d) requires that such permits be applied for in good faith and, if granted, that the permit not operate to the disadvantage of endangered species, and that the permit be consistent with the purposes of the ESA.

Our regulations implementing the ESA are in chapter I, subchapter B of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR; 50 CFR parts 13 and 17). The regulations stipulate general and specific requirements that, when met, allow us to issue permits to authorize activities that are otherwise prohibited. Upon receipt of a complete application, the Director may issue a permit authorizing any activity otherwise prohibited by § 17.21, in accordance with the issuance criteria of this section, for scientific purposes, for enhancing the propagation or survival, or for the incidental taking of endangered wildlife. Such permits may authorize a single transaction, a series of transactions, or a number of activities over a specific period of time. (See § 17.32 for permits for threatened species.)

We collect information associated with application forms to determine the eligibility of applicants for permits requested in accordance with the criteria in section 10 of the ESA. The Service uses the following permit application forms for activities associated with native endangered and threatened species:

• Form 3–200–54, Enhancement of Survival Permits Associated with Conservation Benefit Agreements;

• Form 3–200–56, Incidental Take Permits Associated with a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP);

• Form 3–200–59, Scientific, Enhancement of Propagation, or Survival (*i.e.,* Purposeful Take for Recovery); and

• Form 3–200–60, Interstate Commerce.

Annual reporting of the results subsequent to the activity authorized by the permit is required in most cases (under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) and 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 17). These reports allow us to evaluate the success of the project, formulate further research, and develop and adjust management and recovery plans for the species. We currently use the following reports specific to particular species (and regions, where appropriate):

• Form 3–202–55a, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Southwestern Bat Reporting Form;

• Form 3–202–55b, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Midwestern Bat Reporting Form;

• Form 3–202–55c, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Southeastern Bat Reporting Form;

• Form 3–202–55d, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Northeastern Bat Reporting Form; and

• Form 3–202–55e, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Plains/Rockies Bat Reporting Form.

• Form 3–202–55f, Non-Releasable Sea Turtle Annual Report; and

• Form 3–202–55g, Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Annual Report.

• Form 3–2523, Midwest Geographic Area: Freshwater Mussel Reporting Form;

• Form 3–2526, Midwest Geographic Area: Bumble Bee Reporting Form;
• Form 3–2530, California/Nevada/Klamath Basin, OR Recovery Permit Annual Summary Report Form;
• Form 3–2532, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Alaska Bat Reporting Form;
• Form 3–2533, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Northwestern Bat Reporting Form; and
• Form 3–2534, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Western Bat Reporting Form.

Annual reporting of the results subsequent to the activity authorized by the permit is required in most cases (under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) and section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 17). The Service designed the forms to facilitate the electronic reporting specifically for each species. The Service will use the reported data to evaluate the success of the permitted project, formulate further research, and develop and adjust management and recovery plans for the species. The data will also inform 5-year reviews and Species Status Assessments (SSA) conducted under the ESA.

Additionally, we require that the following notifications be made to the Service:

• Private landowners who have an enhancement of survival permit (and accompanying safe harbor agreement or candidate conservation agreement with assurances) must notify us if their land management activities incidentally take a listed or candidate species covered under their permit.
• We issue enhancement of survival permits to landowners, and their name is printed on the permit. If ownership of the land changes, this permit does not automatically transfer to the new landowner. Therefore, we ask the permittee to notify us if there is a change in land ownership so that we may update the permit; and
• If a recovery or interstate commerce permit authorizes activities that include keeping wildlife in captivity, we ask the permittee to notify us if any of the captive wildlife escape.

Proposed Revisions

1. We propose to split this collection into two collections. The original Control No., 1018–0094, will retain the Incidental Take Permit and Enhancement of Survival Permit application forms and their associated reporting and notification requirements. We will ask OMB to approve a new control number for the Recovery Permit and Interstate Commerce Permit application forms and their associated reporting forms.

The new control number will contain the collection of information to inform the development of SSAs and recovery plans as developed under Section 4(f) of the ESA. There are no forms associated with this collection. We are required to use the best scientific and commercial data available when reviewing a species' status under the ESA and when developing recovery plans. This new collection will include the new information collections listed below:

a. When developing a new or revised SSA to inform a recovery plan, we send out a request to external partners asking for information related to the species' scientific information, which could include, but is not limited to, the species' current or historical range, distribution, occurrence data, information on potential stressors, or past, on-going, or planned activities, including specific projects or conservation efforts, within the species' range.

b. Once the SSA is complete, the draft SSA report undergoes peer and technical review to increase the quality and credibility of our science and ensure we base our decisions on the best information available.

c. When developing a new or revised draft recovery plan, we send out a request to external partners asking for information related to current threats to the species, ongoing beneficial management efforts, or potential recovery actions.

d. As required by Section 4(f)(4) of the Act, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment on draft recovery plans. We publish a report on ECOS and ask for information from the public that could include, but is not limited to, current threats to the species, ongoing beneficial management efforts, and the costs associated with implementing the recommended recovery actions.

2. *Form 3–2526, ''Bumble Bee Reporting Form''*—We propose the following revisions to Form 3–2526 to:

a. Reflect simplified protocols and methods of detection, as detailed in the voluntary document titled ''Technical Assistance for Surveyors and Researchers'' (available at *https://www.fws.gov/media/survey-and-monitoring-technical-assistance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee*).

b. Update the ''Instructions'' worksheet, in general, to reflect simplified data collection needs as well as updating the worksheet tabs to reflect simplified data-collection needs.

c. Replace the ''Primary Information'' worksheet with a new ''Site Data'' worksheet. All fields will remain; however, we will add a column for ''Field Observer'' and will move the following fields—previously located in the ''Effort and Area'' worksheet—into this worksheet: ''Sampling Unit Location (centroid latitude),'' ''Sampling Unit Location (centroid longitude),'' and ''Area of Sampling Unit.'' We will also add a new field, ''Percentage of Sampling Unit in Bloom.''

d. Replace the ''Effort and Area'' and ''Bee Abundance'' worksheets with a new ''Bee Survey Data'' worksheet. This new worksheet will remove several extraneous fields and will add the fields ''Method of Detection'' and ''Specimen Number,'' the latter of which will help surveyors track multiple specimen photographs if needed. The dropdown list for the ''Bumble Bee Species'' field will include corrected species names.

e. Simplify the ''Habitat Data'' worksheet to include only ''Dominant Habitat Type'' and the option fields ''Management History,'' ''Sampling Unit Condition,'' ''Floral Resource,'' ''Floral Resource Abundance Category,'' and two fields capturing observed Bombus presence on noted floral resources.

f. Remove the ''Detailed Habitat Assessment'' and ''Photographs'' worksheets. Photographs required for species verification will be submitted separately by permittees (*e.g.,* in a zipped folder) and will no longer be embedded in the worksheet.

g. Rename the ''Printable Survey Forms'' worksheet to ''Example Field Data Sheet.'' We will also revise the example data sheet to reflect the updated data-collection needs described in the ''Technical Assistance for Surveyors and Researchers'' document (available at *https://www.fws.gov/media/survey-and-monitoring-technical-assistance-rusty-patched-bumble-bee*).

h. Add a ''Definitions'' worksheet to explain each field in each worksheet and to provide descriptions of the type of data accepted in each column (*e.g.,* text, whole numbers, dropdown list).

3. Revise Seven Existing Forms:

a. Form 3–202–55b, ''*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Midwestern Bat Reporting Form*'';

b. Form 3–202–55c, ''*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Southeastern Bat Reporting Form*'';

c. Form 3–202–55d, ''*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Northeastern Bat Reporting Form*'';

d. Form 3–202–55e, ''*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Plains/Rockies Bat Reporting Form*'';

e. Form 3–2532, ''*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Alaska Bat Reporting Form*'';

f. Form 3–2533, ''*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Northwestern Bat Reporting Form*''*;* and,

g. Form 3–2534, ''*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic Area: Western Bat Reporting Form*''

The revisions include the addition of two new worksheets: one for reporting hibernacula survey results and another for documenting banded bats encountered during those surveys. These additions were made to address a recurring issue in which surveyors were submitting hibernacula data within the roost tree worksheet. That worksheet was not designed to capture such information, resulting in data inconsistencies and processing challenges. While these changes will affect a relatively small number of surveyors, they resolve a significant data management issue.

4. Form 3–200–59, ''*Recovery Permit Application Form*''—The form will be revised to:

a. Clarify instructions for completing the form and distinguishing between new, renewal, and amended permit applications;

b. Add required information for business applicants;

c. Clarify questions in ''Specific Relevant Activity'' section, including highlighting required questions frequently missed, clarifying questions on take;

d. Provide examples of requested tables for submission of information; and,

e. Numerous other minor clarifying edits.

5. Form 3–200–56, ''*Incidental Take Permits with Habitat Conservation Plans*''—This form will be revised to:

a. Update types of supporting materials accepted;

b. Provide clarified language on fees associated with new, renewal, or amendments of permits;

c. Clarify language describing the required HCP that must be submitted in association with this permit application form; and

d. Finalize numerous minor clarifying edits.

The public may request copies of any form contained in this information collection by sending a request to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer (see **ADDRESSES**).

Existing Collection

Title of Collection: Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Applications and Reports—Native Endangered and Threatened Species; 50 CFR parts 10, 13, and 17.

OMB Control Number: 1018–0094.

Form Numbers: 3–200–54 and 3–200–56.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals; private sector; and State/local/Tribal governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 1,941.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 1,941.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: Varies from 30 minutes to 2,080 hours, depending on activity.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 205,640.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion, annually, one time.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: $19,359,100 for fees associated with permit applications and amendments.

Proposed New Collection

Title of Collection: Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Applications and Reports—Native Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery; 50 CFR parts 10, 13, and 17.

OMB Control Number: 1018–NEW.

Form Numbers: 3–200–59, 3–200–60, 3–202–55a through 3–202–55g, 3–2523, 3–2526, 3–2530, and 3–2532 through 3–2534.

Type of Review: New.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals; private sector; and State/local/Tribal governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 5,959.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 5,959.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: Varies from 30 minutes to 8 hours, depending on activity.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 14,450.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion, annually, one time.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: $56,360 for fees associated with permit applications and amendments.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Madonna Baucum,

Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–11008 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[267A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.000000]

HEARTH Act Approval of Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Business Leasing Ordinance

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs approved the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Business Leasing Ordinance under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into leases without further approval from the Secretary of the Interior.

DATES: The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs issued the approval on May 21, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Carla Clark, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Real Estate Services, 1001 Indian School Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104, *carla.clark@bia.gov,* (702) 484–3233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Summary of the HEARTH Act

The HEARTH Act makes a voluntary, alternative land leasing process available to Tribes, by amending the Indian Long-Term Leasing Act of 1955, 25 U.S.C. 415. The HEARTH Act authorizes Tribes to negotiate and enter into surface leases of Tribal trust lands for various purposes. Participating Tribes develop Tribal Leasing regulations, including an environmental review process, and then must obtain the Secretary's approval of those regulations prior to entering into leases. The HEARTH Act requires the Secretary to approve Tribal regulations if the Tribal regulations are consistent with the Department of the Interior's (Department) leasing regulations at 25 CFR part 162 and provide for an environmental review process that meets requirements set forth in the HEARTH Act. This notice announces that the Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, has approved the Tribal regulations for the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

II. Federal Preemption of State and Local Taxes

The Department's regulations governing the surface leasing of trust and restricted Indian lands specify that, subject to applicable Federal law,

permanent improvements on leased land, leasehold or possessory interests, and activities under the lease are not subject to State and local taxation and may be subject to taxation by the Indian Tribe with jurisdiction. See 25 CFR 162.017. As explained further in the preamble to the final regulations, the Federal government has a strong interest in promoting economic development, self-determination, and Tribal sovereignty. 77 FR 72440, 72447–48 (December 5, 2012). The principles supporting the Federal preemption of State law in the field of Indian leasing and the taxation of lease-related interests and activities applies with equal force to leases entered into under Tribal leasing regulations approved by the Federal government pursuant to the HEARTH Act.

Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C. 5108, preempts State and local taxation of permanent improvements on trust land. *Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation* v. *Thurston County,* 724 F.3d 1153, 1157 (9th Cir. 2013) (citing *Mescalero Apache Tribe* v. *Jones,* 411 U.S. 145 (1973)). Similarly, section 5108 preempts State taxation of rent payments by a lessee for leased trust lands, because ''tax on the payment of rent is indistinguishable from an impermissible tax on the land.'' See *Seminole Tribe of Florida* v. *Stranburg,* 799 F.3d 1324, 1331, n.8 (11th Cir. 2015). In addition, as explained in the preamble to the revised leasing regulations at 25 CFR part 162, Federal courts have applied a balancing test to determine whether State and local taxation of non-Indians on the reservation is preempted. *White Mountain Apache Tribe* v. *Bracker,* 448 U.S. 136, 143 (1980). The *Bracker* balancing test, which is conducted against a backdrop of ''traditional notions of Indian self-government,'' requires a particularized examination of the relevant State, Federal, and Tribal interests. We hereby adopt the *Bracker* analysis from the preamble to the surface leasing regulations, 77 FR at 72,447–48, as supplemented by the analysis below.

The strong Federal and Tribal interests against State and local taxation of improvements, leaseholds, and activities on land leased under the Department's leasing regulations apply equally to improvements, leaseholds, and activities on land leased pursuant to Tribal leasing regulations approved under the HEARTH Act. Congress's overarching intent was to ''allow Tribes to exercise greater control over their own land, support self-determination, and eliminate bureaucratic delays that stand in the way of homeownership and economic development in Tribal communities.'' 158 Cong. Rec. H. 2682 (May 15, 2012). The HEARTH Act was intended to afford Tribes ''flexibility to adapt lease terms to suit [their] business and cultural needs'' and to ''enable [Tribes] to approve leases quickly and efficiently.'' H. Rep. 112–427 at 6 (2012).

Assessment of State and local taxes would obstruct these express Federal policies supporting Tribal economic development and self-determination, and also threaten substantial Tribal interests in effective Tribal government, economic self-sufficiency, and territorial autonomy. See *Michigan* v. *Bay Mills Indian Community,* 572 U.S. 782, 810 (2014) (Sotomayor, J., concurring) (determining that ''[a] key goal of the Federal Government is to render Tribes more self-sufficient, and better positioned to fund their own sovereign functions, rather than relying on Federal funding''). The additional costs of State and local taxation have a chilling effect on potential lessees, as well as on a Tribe that, as a result, might refrain from exercising its own sovereign right to impose a Tribal tax to support its infrastructure needs. See *id.* at 810–11 (finding that State and local taxes greatly discourage Tribes from raising tax revenue from the same sources because the imposition of double taxation would impede Tribal economic growth).

Similar to BIA's surface leasing regulations, Tribal regulations under the HEARTH Act pervasively cover all aspects of leasing. See 25 U.S.C. 415(h)(3)(B)(i) (requiring Tribal regulations be consistent with BIA surface leasing regulations). Furthermore, the Federal government remains involved in the Tribal land leasing process by approving the Tribal leasing regulations in the first instance and providing technical assistance, upon request by a Tribe, for the development of an environmental review process. The Secretary also retains authority to take any necessary actions to remedy violations of a lease or of the Tribal regulations, including terminating the lease or rescinding approval of the Tribal regulations and reassuming lease approval responsibilities. Moreover, the Secretary continues to review, approve, and monitor individual Indian land leases and other types of leases not covered under the Tribal regulations according to 25 CFR part 162.

Accordingly, the Federal and Tribal interests weigh heavily in favor of preemption of State and local taxes on lease-related activities and interests, regardless of whether the lease is governed by Tribal leasing regulations or 25 CFR part 162. Improvements, activities, and leasehold or possessory interests may be subject to taxation by Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

William Henry Kirkland III,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–11005 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4337–15–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701–TA–432 and 731–TA–1024–1028 (Fourth Review) and AA1921–188 (Sixth Review)]

Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, and Thailand

Determinations

On the basis of the record [1] developed in the subject five-year reviews, the United States International Trade Commission (''Commission'') determines, pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (''the Act''), that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand (''PC strand'') from Brazil, India, Mexico, South Korea, and Thailand, and the antidumping finding on PC strand from Japan, as well as revocation of the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

Background

The Commission instituted these reviews on October 1, 2025 (90 FR 47337) and determined on February 23, 2026 that it would conduct expedited reviews (91 FR 13609, March 30, 2026).[2]

The Commission made these determinations pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)). It completed and filed its determinations in these reviews on May 29, 2026. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 5743 (May 2026), entitled *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, and Thailand: Nos. 701–TA–432 and 731–TA–1024–1028 (Fourth Review) and AA1921–188 (Sixth Review).*

[1] The record is defined in § 207.2(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

[2] Due to the lapse in appropriations and ensuing cessation of Commission operations, the Commission tolled its schedule for this proceeding. The schedule was revised in a subsequent notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 3, 2025 (90 FR 55763).

By order of the Commission.
Issued: May 29, 2026.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2026–11007 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Notice of Receipt of Complaint; Solicitation of Comments Relating to the Public Interest

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has received a complaint entitled *Certain Systems, Devices, Software, Compositions, Chemicals, and Laboratory Supplies for Studying Proteins, DN 3911;* the Commission is soliciting comments on any public interest issues raised by the complaint or complainant's filing pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa R. Barton, Secretary to the Commission, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 205–2000. The public version of the complaint can be accessed on the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) at *https://edis.usitc.gov.* For help accessing EDIS, please email *EDIS3Help@usitc.gov.*

General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at United States International Trade Commission (USITC) at *https://www.usitc.gov.* The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) at *https://edis.usitc.gov.* Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205–1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission has received a complaint and a submission pursuant to § 210.8(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure filed on behalf of Seer, Inc. and The Brigham and Women's Hospital, Inc. on May 28, 2026. The complaint alleges violations of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1337) in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain systems, devices, software, compositions, chemicals, and laboratory supplies for studying proteins. The complaint names as a respondent: Nanomics Biotechnology Co., Ltd. of China. The complainant requests that the Commission issue a limited exclusion order, cease and desist orders, and impose a bond upon respondents' alleged infringing articles during the 60-day Presidential review period pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1337(j).

Proposed respondents, other interested parties, members of the public, and interested government agencies are invited to file comments on any public interest issues raised by the complaint or § 210.8(b) filing.

Comments should address whether issuance of the relief specifically requested by the complainant in this investigation would affect the public health and welfare in the United States, competitive conditions in the United States economy, the production of like or directly competitive articles in the United States, or United States consumers.

In particular, the Commission is interested in comments that:

(i) explain how the articles potentially subject to the requested remedial orders are used in the United States;

(ii) identify any public health, safety, or welfare concerns in the United States relating to the requested remedial orders;

(iii) identify like or directly competitive articles that complainant, its licensees, or third parties make in the United States which could replace the subject articles if they were to be excluded;

(iv) indicate whether complainant, complainant's licensees, and/or third party suppliers have the capacity to replace the volume of articles potentially subject to the requested exclusion order and/or a cease and desist order within a commercially reasonable time; and

(v) explain how the requested remedial orders would impact United States consumers.

Written submissions on the public interest must be filed no later than by close of business, eight calendar days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. There will be further opportunities for comment on the public interest after the issuance of any final initial determination in this investigation. Any written submissions on other issues must also be filed by no later than the close of business, eight calendar days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Complainant may file replies to any written submissions no later than three calendar days after the date on which any initial submissions were due, notwithstanding § 201.14(a) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. No other submissions will be accepted, unless requested by the Commission. Any submissions and replies filed in response to this Notice are limited to five (5) pages in length, inclusive of attachments.

Persons filing written submissions must file the original document electronically on or before the deadlines stated above. Submissions should refer to the docket number (''Docket No. 3911'') in a prominent place on the cover page and/or the first page. (*See* Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, Electronic Filing Procedures).[1] Please note the Secretary's Office will accept only electronic filings during this time. Filings must be made through the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS, *https://edis.usitc.gov.*) No in-person paper-based filings or paper copies of any electronic filings will be accepted until further notice. Persons with questions regarding filing should contact the Secretary at *EDIS3Help@usitc.gov.*

Any person desiring to submit a document to the Commission in confidence must request confidential treatment. All such requests should be directed to the Secretary to the Commission and must include a full statement of the reasons why the Commission should grant such treatment. *See* 19 CFR 201.6. Documents for which confidential treatment by the Commission is properly sought will be treated accordingly. All information, including confidential business information and documents for which confidential treatment is properly sought, submitted to the Commission for purposes of this Investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel,[2] solely for cybersecurity purposes. All nonconfidential written submissions will be available for public

[1] Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures: *https://www.usitc.gov/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf.*

[2] All contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements.

inspection at the Office of the Secretary and on EDIS.[3]

This action is taken under the authority of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and of §§ 201.10 and 210.8(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.10, 210.8(c)).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: May 28, 2026.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2026–10997 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed revision for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all written comments received by August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation, including a description of the likely respondents, proposed frequency of response, and estimated total burden, may be obtained free by contacting Toni Wilson by telephone at 202–693–2922 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at *ICRComments.SCSEP@dol.gov.*

Submit written comments about, or requests for a copy of, this ICR by mail or courier to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Investment, Division of National Programs, Tools and Technical Assistance, Senior Community Service Employment Program, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, C4526, Washington, DC; or by email: *ICRComments.SCSEP@dol.gov.*

[3] Electronic Document Information System (EDIS): *https://edis.usitc.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Toni Wilson by telephone at 202–693–2922 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at *ICRComments.SCSEP@dol.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOL, as part of continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information before submitting them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final approval. This program helps to ensure requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements can be properly assessed.

The purpose of this ICR is to fulfill the performance and reporting requirements of the Older Americans Act (OAA) (Reauthorized by the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, Pub. L. 116–131 (March 25, 2020)). This revision request seeks to (1) restore with revisions the SCSEP Data Collection Instrument (Form ETA–9191), (2) renew without changes SCSEP's Customer Satisfaction Survey collection instruments (Form ETA–9124A—Participant Survey, Form ETA–9124B—Host Agency Survey, Form ETA–9124C1—Employer Survey for Host Agency Employers, and Form ETA–9124C2—Employer Survey for Non-Host Agency Employers), and (3) remove two pilot survey forms that have been completed (Form ETA–9124A—Participant Survey Pilot Project and Form ETA–9124C2—Non-Host Agency Employer Survey Pilot Project).

The restored Form ETA–9191 has been revised to eliminate data elements already authorized under OMB Control Number 1205–0521 and included in the DOL Participant Individual Record Layout document (Form ETA–9172), while retaining program-specific information unique to SCSEP's mission. The instrument also includes data elements to support a demonstration project awarded to nine SCSEP grantees through FOA–ETA–24–12. The SCSEP survey collection instruments (Form ETA–9124A–C) are used to report the American Customer Satisfaction Index score to meet the definition of one of the core SCSEP measures, indicators of effectiveness in serving employers, host agencies, and participants. These changes are required to ensure accurate data collection for SCSEP's performance accountability and program management requirements (OAA sections 513(b)(1)(E) and 20 CFR 641.700, 641.710, and 641.879).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid Control Number. *See* 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the contact shown in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments must be written to receive consideration, and they will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. In order to help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control Number 1205–0040.

Submitted comments will also be a matter of public record for this ICR and posted on the internet, without redaction. DOL encourages commenters not to include personally identifiable information, confidential business data, or other sensitive statements/information in any comments.

DOL is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, (*e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses).

Agency: DOL–ETA.

Type of Review: Revision.

Title of Collection: Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

Form: SCSEP Data Collection Instrument (Form ETA–9191) and SCSEP's Customer Satisfaction Survey collection instruments (Form ETA–

9124A—Participant Survey, Form ETA–9124B—Host Agency Survey, Form ETA–9124C1—Employer Survey for Host Agency Employers, and Form ETA–9124C2—Employer Survey for Non-Host Agency Employers).

OMB Control Number: 1205–0040.

Affected Public: Individuals and households, State, local and Tribal governments, and the private sector (businesses or other for-profits, and not for-profit institutions).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49,823.

Frequency: Annually.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 49,823.

Estimated Average Time per Response: Varies.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 21,246 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Cost Burden: $564,568.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).

Henry Maklakiewicz,

Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

[FR Doc. 2026–10961 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–FN–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Asbestos in General Industry Standard

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

DATES: The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before July 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicole Bouchet by telephone at 202–693–0213, or by email at *DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This standard requires employers to monitor employee exposure, provide medical surveillance, and to maintain accurate records of employee exposure to asbestos. These records will be used by employers, employees, and the Government to ensure that employees are not harmed by exposure to asbestos in the workplace. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register** on July 25, 2025 (90 FR 35319).

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. *See* 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

Agency: DOL–OSHA.

Title of Collection: Asbestos in General Industry Standard.

OMB Control Number: 1218–0133.

Affected Public: Private Sector—Businesses or other for-profits.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 121.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 11,193.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 3,572 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: $328,667.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D))

Nicole Bouchet,

Senior Paperwork Reduction Act Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2026–10958 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–26–P

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[NOTICE: 26–023]

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Berkeley Space Center at NASA Research Park

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice, correction.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) procedures for implementing NEPA, NASA, in cooperation with the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), have jointly published an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Berkeley Space Center at NASA Research Park. The EIS is a joint EIS/environmental impact report (EIR) that fulfills the requirements of both NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project under consideration by NASA (*i.e.,* the proposed action) is the Berkeley Space Center at NASA Research Park, which would be located at the NASA owned and operated Ames Research Center in Santa Clara County, California. This notice opens a 45-day public comment period during which the public and other interested parties are encouraged to submit comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrés Estrada, Center NEPA Manager, NASA Ames Research Center, *arc-nepacomments@nasa.gov.* Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of April 28, 2026, in FR Doc. 2026–08210, on page 22866, in the third column, change the email address in the **ADDRESSES** section to read: ''*arc-nepacomments@mail.nasa.gov.*''

Nanette Smith,

Team Lead, NASA Directives and Regulations.

[FR Doc. 2026–10936 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510–13–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2026–0826]

Draft Regulatory Guide: Application and Testing of Onsite Emergency Alternating Current Power Sources in Production and Utilization Facilities

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Draft guide; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment draft regulatory guide (DG), DG–1477, ''Application and Testing of Onsite Emergency Alternating Current Power Sources in Production and Utilization Facilities.'' This DG is proposed Revision 5 of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.9 with a new title. The proposed revision to the RG provides guidance that the staff of the NRC considers acceptable to comply with the NRC regulations for onsite emergency alternating current (AC) power sources in production and utilization facilities. These power sources include emergency diesel generators (EDGs), combustion turbine generators (CTGs) and other types of onsite emergency AC power sources.

DATES: Submit comments by July 2, 2026. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website:

- *Federal rulemaking website:* Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket ID NRC–2026–0826. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301–415–1003; email: *Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov.* For technical questions, contact the individual(s) listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.
- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN–5–A85, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see ''Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments'' in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheila Ray, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation; telephone: 301–415–3653; email: *Sheila.Ray@nrc.gov* and Stanley Gardocki, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301–415–1067; email: *Stanley.Gardocki@nrc.gov.* Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2026–0826 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking website:* Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket ID NRC–2026–0826.
- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* To begin the search, select ''Begin ADAMS Public Search.'' For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, at 301–415–4737, or by email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.* The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.
- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov* or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website (*https://www.regulations.gov*). Please include Docket ID NRC–2026–0826 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at *https://www.regulations.gov* as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Additional Information

The NRC is issuing for public comment a DG in the NRC's ''Regulatory Guide'' series. This series was developed to describe methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the agency's regulations, to explain techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific issues or postulated events, and to describe information that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The DG, entitled ''Application and Testing of Onsite Emergency Alternating Current Power Sources in Production and Utilization Facilities,'' is temporarily identified by its task number, DG–1477 (ADAMS Accession No. ML26007A205).

The staff is also issuing for public comment a draft regulatory analysis (ADAMS Accession No. ML26007A215). The staff developed a regulatory analysis to assess the value of issuing or revising a regulatory guide as well as alternative courses of action.

The NRC previously published a DG to update RG 1.9, Revision 4. On January 19, 2021, the NRC issued DG–1303 for public comment by **Federal Register** notice (86 FR 5267). Public comments were received from members of the public, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML21050A427, ML21050A428, and ML21050A429), and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) provided feedback in a letter dated July 26, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21202A149). The staff responded to the ACRS letter on October 13, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21277A254). The staff considered the public comments and ACRS feedback, to the extent possible, in the development of DG–1477. The staff issued DG–1477 to supersede DG–1303 because International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and IEEE have released new standards regarding emergency AC standby power

supplies that supersede the existing standards endorsed in RG 1.9, Revision 4. This revision of the guide (Revision 5) is updated to endorse and provide guidance for these new standards. Revision 5 applies to production and utilization facilities licensed under part 50 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and 10 CFR part 52 within the scope of this RG. Revision 5 is the result of lessons learned from license amendment review activities and inspections, industry operating experience, design certification reviews, combined license application reviews, and NRC staff analysis. Furthermore, Revision 5 includes specific guidance on CTGs and onsite emergency AC power sources other than EDGs and CTGs. If finalized, the NRC will issue Revision 5 of this RG to provide current guidance, based on the generally accepted methods and procedures for EDGs, CTGs, and any other onsite power sources.

This proposed Revision 5 of RG 1.9 endorses, with supplements and clarifications, IEC/IEEE Std 63332 387:2024, ''Nuclear facilities-Electrical power systems-Diesel generator units applied as standby power sources,'' and IEEE Std 2420–2019, ''IEEE Standard Criteria for Combustion Turbine-Generator Units Applied as Standby Power Supplies for Nuclear Power Generating Stations.'' These standards delineate principal design criteria and qualification and testing guidelines to help ensure that EDGs and CTGs meet performance requirements.

III. Backfitting, Forward Fitting, and Issue Finality

The issuance of DG–1477, proposed Revision 5 to RG 1.9, provides guidance that the staff of the NRC considers acceptable to comply with the NRC regulations for onsite emergency AC power sources in production and utilization facilities. Revision 5 to RG 1.9 would not constitute backfitting as defined in 10 CFR 50.109, ''Backfitting,'' and as described in NRC Management Directive (MD) 8.4, ''Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests''; affect issue finality of any approval issued under 10 CFR part 52, ''Licenses, Certificates, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants''; or constitute forward fitting as defined in MD 8.4. As explained in DG–1477, applicants or licensees generally would not be required to comply with the positions in DG–1477.

IV. Submitting Suggestions for Improvement of Regulatory Guides

A member of the public may, at any time, submit suggestions to the NRC for improvement of existing RGs or for the development of new RGs. Suggestions can be submitted on the NRC's public website at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/contactus.html.* Suggestions will be considered in future updates and enhancements to the ''Regulatory Guide'' series.

V. Executive Order (E.O.) 12866

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determined that this DG is not a significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866.

Authority:

42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*

Dated: May 29, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Stanley Gardocki,

Acting Chief, Regulatory Guide and Programs Management Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 2026–10978 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2026–258 and K2026–256; MC2026–259 and K2026–257; MC2026–261 and K2026–259]

New Postal Products

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* June 5, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at *https://www.prc.gov.* Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction
II. Public Proceeding(s)
III. Summary Proceeding(s)

I. Introduction

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405, the Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to Competitive negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition of a negotiated service agreement from the Competitive product list or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Competitive product list.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (*http://www.prc.gov*). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance with the requirements of 39 CFR 3011.301.[1]

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, that will be reviewed in a public proceeding as defined by 39 CFR 3010.101(p), the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each such request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 and 39 CFR 3000.114 (Public Representative). The Public Representative does not represent any individual person, entity or particular point of view, and, when Commission attorneys are appointed, no attorney-client relationship is established. Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each such request.

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) identified in Section II, if any, are consistent with the policies of title 39. Applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3632, 39 U.S.C. 3633, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3035, and 39 CFR part 3041. Comment deadline(s) for each such request, if any, appear in Section II.

Section III identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, to add a standardized distinct product to the Competitive product list or to amend a standardized distinct product, the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. Standardized distinct products are negotiated service agreements that are variations of one or more Competitive

[1] *See* Docket No. RM2018–3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19–22 (Order No. 4679).

products, and for which financial models, minimum rates, and classification criteria have undergone advance Commission review. *See* 39 CFR 3041.110(n); 39 CFR 3041.205(a). Such requests are reviewed in summary proceedings pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.325(c)(2) and 39 CFR 3041.505(f)(1). Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405(c)-(d), the Commission does not appoint a Public Representative or request public comment in proceedings to review such requests. The comment due date discussed below does not apply to Section III proceedings (Docket Nos. MC2026–236 and K2026–235).

II. Public Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–259 and K2026–257; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage Contract 1003 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* May 28, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; Public Representative: Samuel Robinson; *Comments Due:* June 5, 2026.

III. Summary Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–258 and K2026–256; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 1002, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* May 28, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

2. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–261 and K2026–259; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 1004, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* May 28, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Sarah Wessel,

Senior Paralegal Specialist.

[FR Doc. 2026–10982 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–105569; File No. SR–CBOE–2025–079]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Exchange, Inc.; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, To Allow for Extended Trading of Multi-Listed Equity Options

May 28, 2026.

I. Introduction

On September 30, 2025, Cboe Exchange, Inc. (''Exchange'' or ''Cboe'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission''), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'')[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] a proposed rule change to allow for extended trading sessions of multi-listed equity options that meet certain eligibility criteria. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on October 3, 2025.[3] On November 3, 2025, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[4] the Commission designated a longer period within which to approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.[5] On December 23, 2025, the Commission instituted proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.[6] On March 23, 2026, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[7] the Commission designated a longer period within which to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.[8] On April 2, 2026, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change, which superseded the proposed rule change as originally filed and replaced it in its entirety.[9] The proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on April 9, 2026.[10] The Commission received comments on the proposed rule change.[11] This order approves the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1.

II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1[12]

Currently, the Exchange offers three trading sessions: (i) Regular Trading Hours (''RTH'');[13] (ii) Curb Trading Hours (''Curb'');[14] and (iii) Global Trading Hours (''GTH'').[15] Multi-listed equity options currently may trade on the Exchange only during RTH, from 9:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.,[16] except equity options overlying certain designated Exchange Traded Funds (''ETFs''), Exchange Traded Notes (''ETNs''), Index Portfolio Shares, Index Portfolio Receipts, and Trust Issued Receipts (collectively herein, ''ETP options'') are eligible to trade until 4:15 p.m. as part of RTH.[17] The Exchange's exclusively-listed index options, by contrast, currently may trade during GTH and Curb, in addition to during RTH.[18]

As discussed more fully in Amendment No. 1, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.1(c) to

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104160 (Sep. 30, 2025), 90 FR 48091 (''Notice'').

[4] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[5] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104173, 90 FR 51424 (Nov. 17, 2025).

[6] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104509, 90 FR 61454 (Dec. 31, 2025).

[7] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[8] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 105063, 91 FR 14730 (Mar. 26, 2026).

[9] *See https://www.sec.gov/comments/SR-CBOE-2025-079/srcboe2025079-740147-2298235.pdf.*

[10] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 105153 (Apr. 6, 2026), 91 FR 18010 (''Amendment No. 1''). Amendment No. 1 provides additional detail regarding and support for the proposal. In addition, Amendment No. 1 revises the proposal such that it: (1) classifies the proposed extended afternoon session of 4:00–4:15 p.m. as a ''Curb'' session (instead of as a ''GTH'' session as initially proposed), and makes related rule text changes regarding series eligibility; (2) sets forth a selection and removal process for the equity options that may be traded on the Exchange during the proposed extended trading sessions; (3) describes when the Exchange would disseminate opening auction updates; (4) specifies when FLEX equity option orders may be submitted; (5) extends the Exchange's order routing processes to the proposed extended morning session; and (6) updates the Exchange's Global Trading Hours and Curb Trading Hours Disclosure.

[11] All comments received by the Commission on the proposed rule change are available on the Commission's website at: *https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/public-comments/sr-cboe-2025-079.*

[12] The Exchange sets forth additional detail and justification regarding the proposal in Amendment No. 1. *See supra* note 10. Capitalized terms not defined herein are defined in the Exchange's rules.

[13] RTH occurs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 4:15 p.m., depending on the specific security, Monday through Friday. *See* Rule 5.1(b)(1). All times referenced are Eastern Time, unless otherwise specifically noted.

[14] The current Curb session occurs from 4:15 p.m.to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. *See* Rule 5.1(d).

[15] The current GTH session occurs from 8:15 p.m. to 9:25 a.m. the next day, Monday through Friday. *See* Rule 5.1(c).

[16] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18011.

[17] *See* Rule 5.1(b)(1).

[18] *See* Rule 5.1(c)–(d). Currently, options on the S&P 500 Index, CBOE Volatility Index, Cboe Mini SPX Index Options, Russell 2000 Index, Mini-Russell 2000 Index, and Cboe Magnificent 10 Index are approved for trading during GTH and Curb. *See id.*

provide for extended trading sessions for multi-listed equity options that meet certain eligibility criteria, as well as for FLEX options overlying the same equity.[19] The Exchange would permit trading Monday through Friday in designated equity options before and after RTH.[20] The proposed extended morning trading session, which the Exchange would classify as a GTH session, would occur from 7:30 a.m. to 9:25 a.m.[21] The proposed extended afternoon session, which the Exchange would classify as a Curb session, would occur immediately after RTH for equity options (that are not ETP options that already trade until 4:15 p.m. as part of RTH), from 4:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.[22] The Exchange states that equity trading already occurs outside of regular market hours on equity exchanges, but because equity option trading hours have not changed, investors are unable to access the options markets during the extended trading hours when equities may trade, which limits investors' ability to hedge equity transactions with options or utilize options for other investment purposes or strategies.[23] The Exchange also believes that the proposed extended trading sessions will make equity options trading more accessible to investors in other countries and to U.S. investors who wish to trade options in expanded trading sessions alongside the underlying equities.[24]

The Exchange proposes eligibility criteria that must be satisfied by each class of equity options made available for trading during the proposed extended trading sessions, as well as a cap on the total number of eligible classes that may be made available. Specifically, under proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2) and 5.1(d)(2),[25] the Exchange may designate for trading during the proposed GTH and Curb sessions up to 100 actively-traded, equity option classes that meet the following minimum criteria for the preceding six calendar months: (i) the option has an average daily volume of 150,000 contracts, (ii) the equity security underlying the option has a $50 billion market capitalization, and (iii) the equity security underlying the option has an average daily trading volume of 10 million shares.[26] The Exchange may also designate for trading during the proposed GTH and Curb sessions any equity option that is traded on another exchange during GTH or any other trading session that is not RTH; any such equity option would not be subject to the 100-class limit.[27] Moreover, if the Exchange designates a class of equity options as eligible for trading during the proposed GTH and Curb sessions, FLEX options with the same underlying equity security also would be deemed eligible for the proposed extended trading sessions.[28]

The Exchange would undertake a periodic review of the proposed eligibility criteria and, if necessary, remove equity options from the proposed GTH and Curb sessions that no longer meet the criteria.[29] Specifically, the Exchange would engage in a semiannual review process—with two review cycles occurring as of January 1 and July 1 of each year—and utilize trading data from the previous six-month period to determine the equity option classes that meet the requirements of proposed Rule 5.1(c)(2).[30] Eligible equity option classes designated by the Exchange would be permitted to commence trading during the proposed GTH and Curb sessions on the first trading day of February and August, respectively.[31]

If the Exchange determines that an equity option class trading during the proposed GTH and Curb sessions no longer meets the eligibility criteria, the Exchange would impose an up-to-18-month removal process.[32] Specifically, under the proposal: (i) the equity option class may continue to trade in the proposed GTH and Curb sessions for up to 18 months from the date of such determination, and the Exchange would establish and provide reasonable advanced notice of the date on which the equity option class would be removed from trading in the proposed sessions (''removal date''), after which the equity option class may only trade in RTH; (ii) if, before the removal date, the Exchange determines that limited market activity in the equity option class during the proposed GTH session warrants an accelerated removal date, the Exchange may set a new, accelerated removal date and will provide at least seven days' advance notice of the new removal date; and (iii) notwithstanding the above, if, before the removal date, the Exchange determines pursuant to a semiannual review that the equity option class again meets the eligibility criteria, the removal date will no longer apply to the option class, and the option class may continue to trade in the proposed GTH and Curb sessions.[33] The Exchange also reserves the discretion to remove an option class from the proposed GTH and Curb sessions for reasons other than those described above, and it proposes to provide at least 30 days' advance notice of such determination prior to the removal date.[34] But if the Exchange determines that immediate removal is necessary in the interest of investor protection or the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, the Exchange may remove an equity options class from the proposed GTH and Curb sessions at any time and will provide notice of such determination as soon as practicable.[35]

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[19] *See* proposed Rule 5.1(c).

[20] *See id.*

[21] *See id.* The Exchange proposes to add references to equity options and Rule 4.5 (Series of Options Contracts Open for Trading) to current Rule 5.1(c)(2) in order to facilitate the trading of any series in eligible equity option classes that trade during the proposed GTH session. Furthermore, the Exchange proposes a technical change to renumber current Rules 5.1(c)(2), (3), and (4) as Rules 5.1(c)(3), (4), and (5), respectively, because, as further explained below, the Exchange proposes to add a new Rule 5.1(c)(2).

[22] *See* proposed Rule 5.1(d). The Exchange also proposes to add references to equity options and Rule 4.5 to current Rule 5.1(d)(2) in order to facilitate the trading of any series in eligible equity option classes that trade during the proposed Curb session. Furthermore, the Exchange proposes a technical change to renumber current Rules 5.1(d)(2), (3), and (4) as Rules 5.1(d)(3), (4), and (5), respectively, because, as further explained below, the Exchange proposes to add a new Rule 5.1(d)(2).

[23] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18012.

[24] *See id.* The Exchange states that, whereas certain processing aspects of GTH and Curb for equity options require explicit additions to the Exchange's rules, other GTH and Curb trading rules as currently stated would apply to equity options designated for trading in the proposed extended sessions. These rules cover, among other things, (i) electronic-only trading in GTH and Curb sessions, (ii) participation requirements, (iii) obvious errors, (iv) auction functionality, (v) risk controls, (vi) unavailability of market orders, (vii) market maker obligations, and (viii) utilization of existing series listing criteria. *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18017.

[25] Proposed Rule 5.1(c)(2) sets forth the eligibility criteria for equity options to trade during the proposed GTH session, and proposed Rule 5.1(d)(2) permits the Exchange to designate as eligible for trading during the proposed Curb session any option that the Exchange designates to trade during the proposed GTH session pursuant to proposed Rule 5.1(c)(2).

[26] *See* proposed Rule 5.1(c)(2). *See also* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18013–14.

[27] *See* proposed Rule 5.1(c)(2).

[28] *See id.*

[29] *See* proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2) and 5.1(d)(2). *See also* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18014. Proposed Rule 5.1(c)(2) sets forth the review process for the proposed GTH session, and pursuant to proposed Rule 5.1(d)(2), the same review process would apply for the proposed Curb session.

[30] *See* proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2)(A) and 5.1(d)(2). *See also* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18014. For the initial process to determine the equity options that meet the eligibility criteria, the Exchange would utilize data from the nearest six-month period ending either June 30 or December 31 prior to the launch of equity options trading in the proposed GTH and Curb sessions. *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18014.

[31] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18014.

[32] *See* proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2)(B)–(C) and 5.1(d)(2). *See also* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18014–15.

[33] *See* proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2)(B) and 5.1(d)(2).

[34] *See* proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2)(C) and 5.1(d)(2).

[35] *See id.*

In addition to the proposed changes to Rules 5.1(c) and 5.1(d), the Exchange proposes rule amendments to support the proposed GTH and Curb trading for equity options. The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.1(e) to specify that, unlike GTH for index options, GTH for equity options will not occur on a holiday.[36] Further, the Exchange proposes to amend the opening auction process in Rule 5.31 to incorporate GTH for equity options.[37] Rule 5.31(b) currently provides that the queuing period for GTH for All Sessions Classes [38] begins at 8:00 p.m., 15 minutes prior to the commencement of GTH. The Exchange proposes to amend this rule to apply the existing queuing period beginning at 8:00 p.m. to index options and establish a new queuing period for equity options in GTH that would commence at 7:15 a.m., which would be 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the GTH session.[39] The Exchange further proposes to amend Rule 5.31(d) to establish Opening Rotation Triggers processing for GTH equity options by duplicating the existing Opening Rotations Triggers processing for RTH equity options.[40] Additionally, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.31(c) to specify that existing rule text stating that opening auction updates may begin after 8:00 p.m. (previous day) for GTH trading is applicable for index options, and to establish 7:15 a.m. as the time after which opening auction updates may be disseminated for equity options during the proposed GTH session.[41]

The Exchange also proposes to amend its rules to address order routing away from the Exchange during the proposed GTH and Curb sessions.[42] The Exchange states that its system is designed, at all times, to prevent trade-throughs and avoid displaying locked or crossed markets in accordance with the Linkage Plan.[43] As proposed, Users' orders in equity options designated for trading during the proposed extended sessions would be eligible for routing just as they are during RTH.[44] Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.36(a) to change the time when the order routing process is first available from 9:30 a.m. to ''market open.'' [45] This proposed change is designed to enable Users to designate an order for routing (or not available for routing) during all trading sessions for equity options.[46]

The Exchange also proposes to amend its rules regarding FLEX options.[47] The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.71(b)(2) to specify that existing rule text stating that FLEX orders may be submitted after 8:15 p.m. (previous day) is applicable to FLEX orders for an index option, and to establish that an order for an equity FLEX option that is designated to trade during the proposed GTH session may be submitted after 7:30 a.m.[48] Similarly, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.71(b)(3) to specify that existing rule text stating that FLEX orders may be submitted after 4:15 p.m. is applicable to FLEX orders for an index option, and to establish that an order for a FLEX equity option that is designated to trade during the proposed Curb session may be submitted after 4:00 p.m.[49]

Finally, Rule 9.20 provides required disclosures that a Trading Permit Holder must make to a customer prior to the customer trading during GTH and Curb. The Exchange proposes to update the rule to: (1) specify that existing references to the absence of an updated underlying index or portfolio value or intraday indicative value, and lack of regular trading in the securities underlying the index or portfolio apply to index options during GTH and Curb; and (2) add new references to the absence of an underlying price or lack of regular trading in the underlying equity for equity options trading in the proposed GTH and Curb sessions.[50]

III. Discussion and Commission Findings

After careful review, the Commission finds that the Exchange's proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1 (''Amended Proposal''), is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.[51] In particular, the Commission finds that the Amended Proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(1) of the Act,[52] which requires, among other things, that the Exchange be so organized and have the capacity to be able to carry out the purposes of the Act and to comply, and to enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with its members, with the provisions of the Act, Commission rules and regulations thereunder, and its own rules; Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,[53] which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to and facilitating transactions in securities, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, protect investors and the public interest; and Section 6(b)(8) of the Act,[54] which requires that the rules of a national securities exchange not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The Amended Proposal is novel in that no national securities exchange currently permits pre-RTH trading of multi-listed equity options or post-RTH trading of multi-listed equity options that are not ETP options. Even though equity securities are exchanged-traded outside of RTH,[55] investors currently are unable to engage in exchange trading outside of RTH to utilize equity option trading strategies, including to hedge equity positions and mitigate downside risk in those positions.[56] By extending the availability of equity options trading on the Exchange so that it begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 4:15 p.m., the Amended Proposal is reasonably designed to expand access to equity

[36] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18016. Similarly, Rule 5.1(e) already states that there is no Curb Trading Hours on domestic and international holidays, and these provisions would also apply to equity options.

[37] *See id.* The Opening Auction Process is not applicable to the Curb session for equity options. *See id.*

[38] *See* Rule 1.1 (defining the term ''All Sessions Class'' as an options class that the Exchange lists for trading during all trading sessions).

[39] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18016–17.

[40] *See id.*

[41] *See id.*

[42] *See* proposed Rule 5.36. The Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan (''Linkage Plan'') requires U.S. options exchanges to establish a framework for providing order protection and addressing locked and crossed markets in eligible options classes. The Linkage Plan is a national market system plan approved by the Commission pursuant to Section 11A of the Act and Rule 608 thereunder. *See* 15 U.S. C. 78k–1; 17 CFR 242.608. The full text of the Linkage Plan is available at *https://www.theocc.com/getcontentasset/7fc629d9-4e54-4b99-9f11-c0e4db1a2266/dfc3d011-8f63-43f6-9ed8-4b444333a1d0/options_order_protection_plan.pdf.*

[43] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18016.

[44] *See id. See also* Rule 1.1 (stating that the term ''User'' means any Trading Permit Holders (''TPHs'') or Sponsored User who is authorized to obtain access to the System pursuant to Rule 5.5).

[45] *See* proposed Rule 5.36(a).

[46] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18016.

[47] *See* Rule 5.71 (Opening of FLEX Trading).

[48] *See* proposed Rule 5.71(b)(2). *See also* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18015–16.

[49] *See* proposed Rule 5.71(b)(3).

[50] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18017.

[51] In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. *See* 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

[52] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

[53] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[54] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

[55] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18012.

[56] *See id.*

options as a tool for risk mitigation and help investors protect existing equity positions against price movements.

In addition, the Amended Proposal sets forth a measured approach for extending the Exchange trading sessions that are available for equity options, which is consistent with the Act.[57] Currently, the earliest available extended trading sessions for equity securities on national securities exchanges commence at 4:00 a.m. and conclude at 8:00 p.m.[58] The Exchange has proposed significantly shorter timeframes for the proposed GTH and Curb sessions, which the Exchange states is appropriate because of the lack of industry experience with extended trading sessions for equity options.[59] The Exchange states that limiting the proposed trading windows would allow for a paced introduction of these types of trading sessions for equity options.[60] The Exchange also states that the limited timeframes will allow it to monitor and assess the development and functioning of the proposed GTH and Curb sessions for equity options.[61]

The Amended Proposal also is measured with respect to the equity option classes that would be available for trading during the Exchange's proposed extended trading sessions. Only highly liquid equity option classes that meet the eligibility criteria set forth in proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2) and (d)(2) would be available for trading during the proposed extended trading sessions. The Amended Proposal also caps the number of eligible equity option classes that would be available at 100, subject to another exchange offering extended trading of an equity option class that the Exchange has not offered, in which case the Exchange could add that class without it counting against the 100 class cap.[62] Moreover, the Amended Proposal sets forth a detailed review procedure to determine the equity option classes for inclusion in or removal from the proposed extended trading sessions. Further, the Amended Proposal modifies Exchange rules regarding series eligibility, the opening auction and opening of FLEX trading, order routing, and disclosure in a manner that is appropriately designed to facilitate the proposed extended trading of equity options.[63]

The Commission received comments on the proposal.[64] The commenters expressed support for the proposal,[65] and appreciation for its measured approach.[66] A commenter discussed the classification of the proposed extended afternoon trading session,[67] and the commenters discussed implementation matters relating to the collection and dissemination of consolidated market data and clearance and settlement.[68] The Exchange responded in the Amended Proposal as well as a letter responding to the submitted comments.[69]

A. Extended Afternoon Session Classification

One commenter requests clarification regarding how the Exchange would classify the proposed afternoon extended trading session of 4:00 p.m.–4:15 p.m. and describes the potential implications for market participants of classifying this proposed session as GTH or RTH.[70] The Amended Proposal designates the proposed extended afternoon session as a Curb trading session. The Curb designation aligns with existing Exchange terminology for the Curb trading session that already occurs after RTH on the Exchange for index options, and it would provide market participants with flexibility to specify the trading sessions outside of RTH during which their equity option orders may trade. In particular, the Curb designation would allow market participants to determine in which sessions their orders would trade outside of RTH, and for the exclusion of the proposed extended afternoon session if that is desired.[71] In addition, the Curb designation provides clarity that market orders would not be permitted during the proposed extended afternoon session (and they also would not be permitted during the proposed extended morning session).[72] Further, members with existing Exchange ports for RTH would not need new ports for the proposed extended trading sessions and would be able to utilize simple tags through their ports to indicate the trading session(s) in which an order may be executed.[73] Accordingly, designating the proposed extended afternoon session as a Curb session is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.[74]

B. Implementation Matters

While broadly supporting the proposal, commenters state that, if it is approved, its implementation should be delayed in light of potential consolidated market data and clearance and settlement issues.[75] The Commission's consideration of these matters, therefore, centers on consideration of an appropriate implementation period following this approval order. That is discussed in Section III.B.3 below, following discussion of the comments and Exchange responses regarding

[57] *See id.*

[58] *See id.* at 18013.

[59] *See id.*

[60] *See id.*

[61] *See id.* The Exchange further states that it has discussed the proposal with numerous market participants, and, based on such discussions, it believes that market-makers, clearing firms, and other market participants can support the proposed trading timeframes from a personnel coverage perspective. *See id.*

[62] *See* proposed Rules 5.1(c)(2) and 5.1(d)(2). Initially, the Exchange would offer a subset of qualifying symbols for extended session trading pursuant to this proposal. *See https://www.cboe.com/notices/content/?id=59462.*

[63] *See* proposed Rules 5.1, 5.20, 5.31, 5.36, 5.71, and 9.20.

[64] *See supra* note 11. *See also* Letters from: Katie Kolchin, Managing Director, Head of Equity & Options Market Structure, and Gerald O'Hara, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, dated March 19, 2026 (''SIFMA First Letter''), April 24, 2026 (''SIFMA Second Letter''), and May 15, 2026 (''SIFMA Third Letter''); Angela Dunn, Principal Associate General Counsel, NASDAQ, dated December 18, 2025 (''Nasdaq Letter'').

[65] *See* Nasdaq Letter at 1.

[66] *See* SIFMA First Letter at 1.

[67] *See id.* at 3–5.

[68] *See id.* at 5–7; SIFMA Second Letter at 2–3; Nasdaq Letter at 1–2.

[69] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10; *see also* Letter from Laura Dickman, Vice President, Associate General Counsel, Cboe Exchange, Inc., dated April 15, 2026 (''Cboe Letter'').

[70] *See* SIFMA First Letter, at 3–5. The Exchange previously considered classifying the proposed extended afternoon trading session as a new GTH session or, alternatively, as part of RTH. *See* Notice, *supra* note 3; *see also* SIFMA First Letter at 3. In light of that, this commenter sets forth pros and cons of each of those classifications. For example, the commenter states that designating the proposed extended afternoon session as GTH like the proposed extended morning session would force firms to create new FIX tags so that they could dictate whether their orders participate in either session. As a point of comparison, the commenter states that a firm currently may choose not to trade index options on the Exchange during the current Curb session for those options. The commenter also states that a GTH classification would ensure that firms' front-end platforms and trade systems follow important GTH protocols like preventing market orders, whereas market participants would seek clarity regarding whether market orders would be available under a RTH classification. *See* SIFMA First Letter at 3–4. As discussed, *infra,* the Exchange, in Amendment No. 1, designates the proposed extended afternoon session as a Curb session, which addresses this commenter's concerns.

[71] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18012. Orders marked for ''All Sessions'' would automatically carry over and be actionable across all sessions, while those marked as RTH-Only would not be actionable during the proposed GTH or Curb sessions; orders marked as RTH and Curb would be actionable during the RTH and the Curb sessions. *See id.* n.19.

[72] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18017 (stating that Users will not be able to submit market orders in equity options during the proposed GTH and Curb sessions, as is the case today during GTH and Curb for index options).

[73] *See id.* at 18012.

[74] *See* proposed Rule 5.1; Cboe Letter at 1.

[75] *See* Nasdaq Letter; SIFMA First Letter; SIFMA Second Letter; SIFMA Third Letter.

consolidated market data and clearance and settlement, in Sections III.B.1 and III.B.2 below, respectively.

1. Collection and Dissemination of Consolidated Market Data

Commenters ask whether the Options Price Reporting Authority (''OPRA'') would have the ability and capacity to collect and disseminate equity option quotation and transaction information for all options exchanges during the extended trading sessions that the Exchange has proposed.[76] OPRA has confirmed that its RTH platform would be able to support the proposed extended trading sessions for all exchanges, following a 30-day notice period to OPRA subscribers.[77] Moreover, the Exchange states that OPRA RTH lines would be used for quote distribution and trade data for equity options trading during its proposed extended trading sessions.[78]

2. Clearance and Settlement

Commenters raise several considerations that relate to clearance and settlement of equity option transactions during the proposed extended sessions and the Options Clearing Corporation's (''OCC'') role,[79] including: (i) timing and accuracy of start-of-day positions and Regulation SHO implications; [80] (ii) potential impact on the clearing fund; (iii) potential additional capital requirements; (iv) potential margin impacts; (v) exercises and assignment notifications; (vi) settlement calculations; (vii) potential amendments to the Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options, also known as the Options Disclosure Document (''ODD''); (viii) potential additional approvals for clearing members; and (ix) corporate actions and contract adjustments.[81] One commenter characterizes handling of corporate actions as the biggest hurdle in a successful transition to extended trading sessions for equity options.[82] This commenter states that the primary concerns in that regard revolve around corporate action events that significantly alter underlying positions and the timing of related announcements.[83]

In the Amended Proposal and Cboe Letter, the Exchange states that the OCC has indicated it is operationally ready to support equity option trading during the proposed extended trading sessions and would utilize its existing processes and margin requirements.[84] The Exchange states that, based on discussions with the OCC and certain clearing firms, the proposed extended trading sessions generally should not hinder existing processes, including with respect to start-of-day positions.[85] The Exchange states that the OCC and clearing firms have indicated that their end-of-day processes are designed to complete on the same trading day, well before midnight.[86] The Exchange states that, as such, it does not expect the proposed GTH session to have any impact on daily processing when processing occurs in the normal course, and the proposed GTH session is not a concern from the Regulation SHO perspective.[87]

The Exchange acknowledges that a corporate action that significantly impacts the value of a security may be announced while the equity option overlying the security is trading during the proposed Curb session.[88] The Exchange states that if such an announcement results in a halt of the underlying security, trading in the equity option should also halt.[89] The Exchange also states that announcements of the effectiveness of a corporate action made after 4:00 p.m. are similar to the announcement of a corporate action that is made prior to 4:00 p.m.[90] The Exchange states that, as such, corporate action announcements made during the proposed extended afternoon session would generally have the same impact as corporate actions that are announced as effective during the RTH session.[91]

3. Implementation Timing

As noted above, the Commission's consideration of the consolidated market data and clearance and settlement matters raised by commenters centers on consideration of an appropriate implementation period following this approval order. One commenter requests that any Commission approval of the proposed rule change be contingent upon OPRA's readiness to permit all OPRA participant exchanges to trade during the proposed extended sessions and OCC's readiness to clear equity options during the proposed extended sessions.[92] The other commenter requests that the proposed rule change have an effective date no less than 120 days from the date it is approved, which the commenter states would be a reasonable time period for market participants to address outstanding issues.[93]

[76] *See* Nasdaq Letter at 1–2; SIFMA First Letter at 6.

[77] *See* Memorandum from the Division of Trading and Markets Regarding a March 4, 2026, Conference Call with Representatives of the Options Price Reporting Authority and the Securities Industry Automation Corporation, dated March 4, 2026.

[78] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18018. The Exchange states that, although equity options activity would utilize OPRA RTH lines, GTH and Curb session trades would not be last trade eligible and would not count toward the daily high/low prices. *See id.* n. 56. The Exchange also states that Cboe proprietary index options will continue to be quoted and trade on the OPRA GTH system during GTH hours for index options. *See id.* n. 57.

[79] *See* SIFMA First Letter at 5–6; Nasdaq Letter at 2.

[80] *See* SIFMA First Letter at 5; SIFMA Second Letter at 2–3. With regard to Regulation SHO, this commenter states that start-of-day positions must be accurate to correctly calculate and mark short and long positions; if clearing firm files, including contrary assignments, are delayed, start-of-day positions could be impacted, leading to potential mismarking or other issues. *See* SIFMA First Letter at 5.

[81] *See* SIFMA First Letter at 5–7; Nasdaq Letter at 2.

[82] *See* SIFMA First Letter at 7.

[83] *Id.*

[84] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18019; Cboe Letter at 2–3. The Exchange states that OCC already clears during extended trading sessions for certain Cboe index options as well as certain ETF options and other products that are eligible pursuant to Exchange rules to trade until 4:15p.m. as part of RTH and, therefore, has the functionality to support the proposed GTH and Curb trading sessions for equity options. *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18019; Cboe Letter at 2–3.

[85] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18013. *See also* Cboe Letter at 2. The Exchange states that clearing firms have indicated that the proposed extended trading session times generally should not hinder processing because such processing is typically completed on the trading day. *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18013.

[86] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18013, 18019.

[87] *See id. See also* Cboe Letter at 2. The Exchange also states that it and the OCC intend to apply to the proposed extended equity option trading sessions the existing authorization procedures that apply to GTH trading of index options on the Exchange. *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18019. An Exchange member that is already authorized for GTH trading of index options would not require any further Exchange or OCC authorizations to trade equity options during the proposed GTH session. Exchange members that are not currently authorized for GTH trading of index options but wish to trade equity options during the proposed GTH session would be required to receive authorization from both the OCC and the Exchange before doing so. No special authorization is required for participation in the proposed Curb session. *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18019.

[88] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18014.

[89] *See id.*

[90] *See id.*

[91] *See id.* The Exchange also states that it continues to participate in industry discussions to address concerns about late corporate action notifications and the impacts they can have on option contract adjustments and option positions during all trading sessions (not just extended trading hours). *See* Cboe Letter at 2. Further, the Exchange states that it is preparing a separate rule filing that would provide the Exchange with authority to address certain scenarios as part of obvious error rules. *See id.*

[92] *See* Nasdaq Letter at 1–2.

[93] *See* SIFMA First Letter at 7; SIFMA Second Letter at 3. *See also* SIFMA Third Letter (clarifying that its request for a 120-day implementation delay applies to the Exchange's proposal but not other options exchange proposals to extend trading hours, and urging harmonization across options exchange

Continued

The Exchange states that some firms are ready to trade equity options in the proposed extended trading sessions, but it also acknowledges that some firms may require additional time to make necessary system modifications.[94] The Exchange states that it would not launch the proposed equity option extended trading sessions until at least 30 days following any Commission approval of this proposed rule change, and approximately three months after the Exchange's publication of technical specifications related to the proposed extended trading sessions.[95] The Exchange also states that the OCC must file a proposed rule change to support the proposed extension of trading hours for equity options, and that the Exchange would not launch its proposed extended trading sessions for equity options until after any Commission approval of the OCC's rule filing.[96]

The Exchange's timing for the commencement of the proposed extended trading sessions must be consistent with Section 6(b)(1) of the Act,[97] which requires, among other things, that the Exchange is so organized and has the capacity to comply with the provisions of the Act, Commission rules and regulations thereunder, and its own rules; Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that the Exchange's rules be designed to foster cooperation with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to and facilitating transactions in securities, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest; and Section 6(b)(8) of the Act, which requires that the rules of a national securities exchange not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. These requirements have been met here because the Exchange's proposed extended trading sessions would not commence until at a minimum: (i) OPRA is prepared to collect and disseminate quote and trade information for any exchange that adopts the same proposed extended trading sessions, (ii) the OCC is prepared to clear and settle trades for any such exchange, and (iii) exchange members are afforded a reasonable amount of time to prepare for extended equity option trading.

As discussed above, OPRA has confirmed its readiness to collect and disseminate quote and trade information for any exchange, and the Exchange would utilize an OPRA platform that would be available to any exchange seeking to offer the same extended trading sessions as the Exchange. Since OPRA would provide a 30-day notice period to its subscribers, the Commission understands that the Exchange would not commence the proposed extended session trading until after that 30-day notice period has concluded.

With respect to OCC readiness and exchange member readiness, the Exchange effectively has committed not to implement the proposed extended session trading until the later of: (i) 30 days following the date of this approval order,[98] (ii) approximately three months after the Exchange's publication of technical specifications,[99] and (iii) any Commission approval of the proposed rule change that the OCC must file with the Commission pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Act.[100] Multi-listed equity options are standardized options and, as such, transactions in them that occur during the proposed extended trading session must be cleared and settled by the OCC.[101] Because the Exchange would not implement the proposed extended trading sessions until after effectiveness of the OCC's proposed rule change, the Exchange has acknowledged that it would not implement the proposed extended sessions until the OCC is prepared to clear and settle equity option trades that occur during those sessions.

Taken together, the Exchange's proposed implementation timing is designed to provide Exchange members with reasonable time and opportunity to prepare for the proposed extended trading sessions, and therefore consistent with the Act.[102] The Exchange's publication of technical specifications in mid-April enabled Exchange members to begin technical preparations for the proposed extended sessions prior to this approval order. The approximately three-month implementation period following such publication would conclude before the 120-day post-approval implementation period requested by one commenter. But to the extent Exchange members already have begun preparations, they may require less time to become fully prepared than 120 days following this approval order. In addition, the proposed rule change that the OCC must file with the Commission is subject to a statutory timeframe during which Exchange members can continue their preparations, including obtaining any necessary trading authorizations from the Exchange or the OCC.[103]

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that the Amended Proposal is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.

IV. Conclusion

It is Therefore Ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, (SR–CBOE–2025–079) be, and it hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[104]

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10951 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

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proposals for extended trading). SIFMA's First Letter requests an effective date of no less than 120 *business* days (emphasis added), and SIFMA's Second Letter requests an effective date of no less than 120 days (without specifying ''business'' days), in either case to run from the date of approval of the Amended Proposal. *See* SIFMA First Letter at 7; SIFMA Second Letter at 3. SIFMA's Third Letter characterizes its prior two letters as having requested a 120-day implementation delay (without specifying ''business'' days). *See* SIFMA Third Letter at 2.

[94] *See* Cboe Letter at 2. The Exchange states that certain firms have requested that the Exchange launch trading in the proposed GTH and Curb sessions as soon as possible. *See id.*

[95] *See id. See also* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18019. The Exchange published these technical specifications on April 15, 2026; they are available at: *https://www.cboe.com/notices/content/?id=59462.*

[96] *See* Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 10, at 18017, n. 52.

[97] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

[98] *See supra* note 95 and accompanying text.

[99] *See id.*

[100] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b). In light of the date of this approval order, the time period countenanced by (i) is moot because the time periods countenanced by (ii) and (iii) will run past the date that is 30 days following the date of this approval order. *See supra* note 95 and accompanying text. In addition, as noted above, the Exchange's implementation of the Amended Proposal also is contingent on the conclusion of OPRA's 30-day notice period to its subscribers.

[101] *See* 17 CFR 240.9b-1.

[102] The Exchange has provided FAQs on its website to assist market participants with their preparations for the proposed extended trading sessions for multi-listed equity options. *See https://www.cboe.com/document/tech-spec/content/technical-specifications/equity-options-extended-trading-hours-faq/overview.*

[103] *See supra* note 87. *See also* Section 19(b) of the Act; 15 U.S.C. 78s(b).

[104] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 36193]

Deregistration Under Section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

May 29, 2026.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'' or ''SEC'').

ACTION: Notice of Applications for Deregistration under Section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

The following is a notice of applications for deregistration under section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 for the month of May 2026. A copy of each application may be obtained via the Commission's website by searching for the applicable file number listed below, or for an applicant using the Company name search field, on the SEC's EDGAR system. The SEC's EDGAR system may be searched at *https://www.sec.gov/edgar/search-filings.* You may also call the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Assistance at (202) 551–8090. An order granting each application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on any application by emailing the SEC's Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov* and serving the relevant applicant with a copy of the request by email, if an email address is listed for the relevant applicant below, or personally or by mail, if a physical address is listed for the relevant applicant below. The email should include the relevant file number. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on June 23, 2026, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to Rule 0–5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov.*

ADDRESSES: The Commission: *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shane Duggan, Acting Assistant Director, at (202) 551–6367 or Chief Counsel's Office at (202) 551–6821; SEC, Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel's Office, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–8010.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Virtus Retirement Trust [File Number 811–09140]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On October 30, 2018, and December 20, 2018, applicant made liquidating distributions to its shareholders based on net asset value. Expenses of $68,975 incurred in connection with the liquidation were paid by the applicant. All assets have been distributed to shareholders, and no assets remain.

Filing Date: The application was filed on September 29, 2025, and amended on April 30, 2026 and May 21, 2026.

Applicant's Address: 101 Munson Street, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301–9668.

BlackRock Collateral Trust [File Number 811–23154]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant has never made a public offering of its securities and does not propose to make a public offering or engage in business of any kind.

Filing Date: The application was filed on December 18, 2025, and amended on May 12, 2026.

Applicant's Address: c/o BlackRock Fund Advisors, 400 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

MidBridge Private Markets Fund [File Number 811–23839]

Summary: Applicant, a closed-end investment company, seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant has never made a public offering of its securities and does not propose to make a public offering or engage in business of any kind.

Filing Date: The application was filed on April 8, 2026, and amended on May 15, 2026.

Applicant's Address: MidBridge Advisors LP, 101 University Boulevard, Suite 310, Denver, Colorado 80206.

First Eagle Global Opportunities Fund [File Number 811–23722]

Summary: Applicant, a closed-end investment company, seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant has never made a public offering of its securities and does not propose to make a public offering or engage in business of any kind.

Filing Date: The application was filed on March 16, 2026, and amended on May 28, 2026.

Applicant's Address: 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–11004 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–105570; File No. SR–MIAX–2026–21]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Exchange Rule 515A, MIAX Price Improvement Mechanism and PRIME Solicitation Mechanism

May 28, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the ''Act''),[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on May 15, 2026, Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (''MIAX'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Exchange Rule 515A, MIAX Price Improvement Mechanism (''PRIME'') and PRIME Solicitation Mechanism, to permit orders for the accounts of Market Makers assigned in the applicable options class, to be solicited as a contra party to the Agency Order submitted for execution in a PRIME or cPRIME Auction.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Policy .04 of Exchange Rule 515A, MIAX Price Improvement Mechanism (''PRIME'') and PRIME Solicitation Mechanism, (''Solicitation Auction'') [3] to permit orders for the accounts of Market Makers [4] assigned in the applicable options class, to be solicited as a contra party to the Agency Order [5] submitted for execution in a PRIME or cPRIME Auction.[6]

PRIME is a process by which a Member [7] may electronically submit for execution (''Auction'') an order it represents as agent (''Agency Order'') against principal interest, and/or an Agency Order against solicited interest.[8] A Member (the ''Initiating Member'') may initiate an Auction provided all of the following are met: (i) the Agency Order is in a class designated as eligible for PRIME as determined by the Exchange and within the designated Auction order eligibility size parameters as such size parameters are determined by the Exchange; (ii) the Initiating Member must stop the entire Agency Order as principal or with a solicited order at the better of the NBBO [9] or the Agency Order's limit price (if the order is a limit order); and (iii) with respect to Agency Orders that have a size of less than 50 contracts, if at the time of receipt of the Agency Order, the NBBO has a bid/ask differential of $0.01, the System [10] will reject the Agency Order.[11] Members may use PRIME to execute complex orders at a net price. ''cPRIME'' is the process by which a Member may electronically submit a ''cPRIME Order'' (as defined in Rule 518(b)(7)) it represents as agent (a ''cPRIME Agency Order'') against principal or solicited interest for execution (a ''cPRIME Auction''), subject to the criteria enumerated in Policy .12 of Rule 515A.[12]

Currently, Policy .04 of Rule 515A provides that Members may enter contra orders that are solicited. The PRIME provides a facility for Members that locate liquidity for their customer orders. Members may not use the Solicitation Auction to circumvent Rule 520 limiting principal transactions. This may include, but is not limited to, Members entering contra orders that are solicited from (a) affiliated broker-dealers, or (b) broker-dealers with which the Member has an arrangement that allows the Member to realize similar economic benefits from the solicited transaction as it would achieve by executing the customer order in whole or in part as principal. Additionally, solicited contra orders entered by Members to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a MIAX Market Maker assigned to the options class.[13]

The last sentence of Policy .04 of Rule 515A prohibits orders for the accounts of Market Makers assigned to the applicable options class on the Exchange to be solicited to execute against the Agency Order in a PRIME or cPRIME Auction. While market participants other than appointed MIAX Market Makers may contribute liquidity to these crossing auctions as either contra orders or responses, Market Makers assigned to the options class, who are the primary source of liquidity on the Exchange in their assigned options class, are limited in the manner in which they may provide liquidity to these auctions.

The Exchange believes that eliminating the prohibition against assigned Market Makers acting as contra in PRIME and cPRIME Auctions would enhance price improvement opportunities. Allowing the assigned Market Maker in the options class to be solicited as a contra party may result in exposure of more orders to potential price improvement via the auction processes.

Further, the Exchange notes that the electronic crossing price improvement auction of at least one other options exchange currently permits orders for the accounts of appointed market-makers to be solicited as the contra for that auction.[14]

Implementation

The Exchange proposes to implement this functionality in Q3 of 2026 and will issue a Regulatory Circular notifying market participants of the implementation date at least 30 days prior.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,[15] in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,[16] in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5) [17] requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change will promote just and equitable principles of trade and remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system because it will provide the primary liquidity providers on the Exchange with an additional way to participate in electronic auctions. Additionally, by permitting Members to solicit primary liquidity providers in a class for

[3] *See* Exchange Rule 515A(b).

[4] The term ''Market Makers'' refers to ''Lead Market Makers,'' ''Primary Lead Market Makers,'' and ''Registered Market Makers'' collectively. *See* Exchange Rule 100.

[5] PRIME is a process by which a Member may electronically submit for execution (''Auction'') an order it represents as agent (''Agency Order'') against principal interest, and/or an Agency Order against solicited interest. *See* Exchange Rule 515A(a). The term ''Member'' means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed ''members'' under the Exchange Act. *See* Exchange Rule 100.

[6] ''cPRIME'' is the process by which a Member may electronically submit a ''cPRIME Order'' (as defined in Rule 518(b)(7)) it represents as agent (a ''cPRIME Agency Order'') against principal or solicited interest for execution (a ''cPRIME Auction''). *See* Exchange Rule 515A.12(a).

[7] The term ''Member'' means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed ''members'' under the Exchange Act. *See* Exchange Rule 100.

[8] *See* Exchange Rule 515A(a).

[9] The term ''NBBO'' means the national best bid or offer as calculated by the Exchange based on market information received by the Exchange from OPRA. *See* Exchange Rule 100. The term ''OPRA'' means the Options Price Reporting Authority, LLC. *See* Exchange Rule 100.

[10] The term ''System'' means the automated trading system used by the Exchange for the trading of securities. *See* Exchange Rule 100.

[11] *See* Exchange Rule 515A(a)(1).

[12] *See* Exchange Rule 515A.12(a).

[13] *See* Policy .04 of Exchange Rule 515A.

[14] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No.105049 (March 19, 2026), 91 FR 14057 (March 24, 2026) (SR–CBOE–2025–090) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change To Permit Orders for the Accounts of Market-Makers With an Appointment in the Applicable Class To Be Solicited as the Contra-Side Order Submitted Into Certain Exchange Auctions).

[15] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[16] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[17] *Id.*

electronic auctions, the Exchange believes Members will be able to more efficiently locate liquidity to fill their customer orders, particularly during times of volatility. As a result, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change will likely expand available liquidity for these auctions, which may create additional execution and price improvement opportunities for customers at all times, which ultimately benefits investors.

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will promote competition in PRIME and cPRIME Auctions, including competition to initiate PRIME and cPRIME Auctions, which will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors. The Exchange believes the availability of this liquidity to Agency Orders will positively affect the experience for Agency Orders and overall quality of the auctions, and may increase the number of PRIME and cPRIME Auctions being initiated. Furthermore, the Exchange believes increasing the number of market participants available to be solicited may increase competition to provide Agency Orders, which may lead to a PRIME Auction being initiated at a better price. More market participants competing to provide Agency Orders may lead to solicited parties providing more aggressive initial prices. The Exchange believes the ability of all market participants, including assigned Market Makers that did not submit an Agency Order, to submit responses to a PRIME Auction will continue to provide competition for executions against these Agency Orders.

The Exchange believes any risk that appointed Market Makers may misuse the non-public information of an upcoming PRIME or cPRIME Auction is de minimis. Currently, that risk is present for non-appointed Market Makers, but the Exchange has not observed any trends of solicited market participants separately submitting unrelated orders as a result of knowledge of impending PRIME or cPRIME Auctions in other classes. The Exchange notes that Policy .01 of Exchange Rule 515A provides that it shall be considered conduct inconsistent with just and equitable principles of trade, in accordance to Exchange Rule 301[18] for any Member to enter orders, quotes, Agency Orders, or other responses for the purpose of disrupting or manipulating the Auction.[19] Additionally, Exchange Rule 303 provides that each Member must establish, maintain and enforce written procedures reasonably designed, taking into consideration the nature of such Member's business, to prevent the misuse of material, non-public information by such Member or persons associated with such Member.[20]

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers because it will permit orders for accounts of assigned Market Makers to be solicited in the same manner as orders for the accounts or all other market participants. Currently, all market participants, other than assigned Market Makers, may be solicited as the contra and submit responses in PRIME Auctions for all classes. Given the additional costs and obligations associated with being an assigned Market Maker, the Exchange does not believe these Market Makers should have fewer execution opportunities with respect to volume submitted for execution through PRIME Auctions. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will provide all Market Makers on the Exchange with the same ability to participate in PRIME Auctions in all classes at all times, which may further increase execution and price improvement opportunities for customers.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because it provides the same execution opportunities in PRIME Auctions to assigned Market Makers that are currently available to all other market participants.

The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because it relates to orders submitted into the PRIME Auction mechanism on the Exchange. Additionally, the Exchange notes that the rules of at least one other options exchange permits orders for the accounts of appointed market makers to be solicited as contra orders for that exchange's electronic crossing price improvement auction.[21] The Exchange believes the proposed rule change may improve price competition with PRIME Auctions, because the primary liquidity providers will be able to increase participation in PRIME Auctions.

For all the reasons stated, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, and believes the proposed change will enhance competition.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act[22] and Rule 19b–4(f)(6)[23] thereunder, the Exchange has designated this proposal as one that effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or

[18] *See* Exchange Rule 301.

[19] *See* Interpretations and Policies .01 of Exchange Rule 515A.

[20] *See* Exchange Rule 303.

[21] *See supra* note 14.

[22] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

[23] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6).

• Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov.* Please include file number SR–MIAX–2026–21 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

• Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–MIAX–2026–21. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR–MIAX–2026–21 and should be submitted on or before June 23, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[24]

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10952 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 36191; File No. 812–15928]

LibreMax Asset-Backed Income Fund, et al.

May 28, 2026.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'' or ''SEC'').

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of application for an order under sections 17(d) and 57(i) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ''Act'') and rule 17d–1 under the Act to permit certain joint transactions otherwise prohibited by sections 17(d) and 57(a)(4) of the Act and rule 17d–1 under the Act.

Summary of Application: Applicants request an order to permit certain business development companies (''BDCs''), closed-end management investment companies, and open-end management investment companies to co-invest in portfolio companies with each other and with certain affiliated investment entities.

Applicants: LibreMax Asset-Backed Income Fund, LibreMax Capital, LLC, and certain of their affiliated entities as described in Schedule A to the Application.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on October 27, 2025, and amended on April 7, 2026 and May 12, 2026.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the requested relief will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on any application by emailing the SEC's Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov* and serving the Applicants with a copy of the request by email, if an email address is listed for the relevant Applicant below, or personally or by mail, if a physical address is listed for the relevant Applicant below. The email should include file number referenced above. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m., Eastern time, on June 22, 2026, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the Applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to rule 0–5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by emailing the Commission's Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov.*

ADDRESSES: The Commission: *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov.* Applicants: Alyssa M. Bernard, LibreMax Asset-Backed Income Fund c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, *alyssa.bernard@usbank.com;* Frank Bruttomesso, LibreMax Capital, LLC, *fbruttomesso@libremax.com;* Nathaniel Segal and Deborah Bielicke Eades, Vedder Price P.C., *nsegal@vedder.com* and *deades@vedder.com.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam Large, Senior Special Counsel, or Deepak T. Pai, Senior Counsel at (202) 551–6825 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel's Office).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For Applicants' representations, legal analysis, and conditions, please refer to Applicants' second amended application, filed May 12, 2026, which may be obtained via the Commission's website by searching for the file number at the top of this document, or for an Applicant using the Company name search field, on the SEC's EDGAR system. The SEC's EDGAR system may be searched at *https://www.sec.gov/search-filings.* You may also call the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Assistance at (202) 551–8090.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10955 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

[24] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[OMB Control No. 3235–0134]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 15c1–7

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'' or ''Commission'') is soliciting comments on the proposed collection of information provided for in Rule 15c1–7 (17 CFR 240.15c1–7) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) (''Exchange Act'').

Rule 15c1–7 states that any act of a broker-dealer designed to effect securities transactions with or for a customer account over which the broker-dealer (directly or through an agent or employee) has discretion will be considered a fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive practice under the federal securities laws, unless a record is made of the transaction immediately by the broker-dealer. The record must include: (1) the name of the customer, (2) the name, amount, and price of the security, and (3) the date and time when such transaction took place.

The Commission estimates that approximately 325 registered broker-dealers would need to comply with Rule 151–7. The Commission estimates that it takes approximately 5 minutes per transaction to comply with the rule. The Commission estimates that approximately 400,000 transactions are effected in discretionary accounts annually, or approximately 1,231 transactions per respondent (400,000 transactions/325 respondents = 1,230.77

rounded up to 1,231). Thus, the Commission estimates that respondents incur an aggregate annual time burden of approximately 33,333 hours per year (400,000 transactions per year × 5 minutes per transaction × 1 hour per 60 minutes) or 103 hours per respondent per year (33,333 total hours/325 respondents) to comply with the rule.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the SEC, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the SEC's estimate of the burden imposed by the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and the assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated, electronic collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please direct your written comments on this 60-Day Collection Notice to Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg via email to *PaperworkReductionAct@sec.gov* by August 3, 2026.

Dated: May 28, 2026.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–10957 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 13028]

Notice of Determinations; Culturally Significant Objects Being Imported for Exhibition—Determinations: ''Treasures of the Pharaohs'' Exhibition

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: I hereby determine that certain objects being imported from abroad pursuant to agreements with their foreign owners or custodians for temporary display in the exhibition ''Treasures of the Pharaohs'' at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young Museum, San Francisco, California; the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas; and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, are of cultural significance, and, further, that their temporary exhibition or display within the United States as aforementioned is in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reed Liriano, Program Coordinator, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202–632–6471; email: *section2459@state.gov*). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/PD, 2200 C Street NW (SA–5), Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522–0505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The foregoing determinations were made pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.;* 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236–3 of August 28, 2000, and Delegation of Authority No. 523 of December 22, 2021.

Sherry C. Keneson-Hall,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–10966 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. FAA–2025–2524]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of a Reinstatement Approval of Information Collection: Part 60—Flight Simulation Device Initial and Continuing Qualification and Use

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to reinstate an information collection. The collection involves requirements which are necessary to ensure safety-of-flight by ensuring that complete and adequate training, testing, checking, and experience is obtained and maintained by those who operate under certain parts of FAA's regulations and use flight simulation in lieu of aircraft for these functions. This collection is being reinstated due to delays caused by the government shutdown and changeover of personnel.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments:

By Electronic Docket: www.regulations.gov (Enter docket number into search field).

By mail: Shannon Salinsky, 8700 Freeport Parkway, Suite 200, Irving, TX 75063.

By fax: 817–222–2222.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Näleé D. Romero by email at: *Nalee.romero@faa.gov;* phone: (202) 267–4702.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Public Comments Invited:* You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2120–0680.

Title: Part 60—Flight Simulation Device Initial and Continuing Qualification and Use.

Form Numbers: T001A, T002, T004, T011, T011–FD2, T012, T023, T024, T025, T068, T069.

Type of Review: Reinstatement of an information collection.

Background: Title 49 U.S.C., Section 44702 empowers and requires the Secretary of Transportation to issue operating certificates and to establish minimum safety standards for the operation of air carriers and those to whom such certificates are issued. Also, Title 49 U.S.C., Section 44701 empowers and requires the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to prescribe standards applicable to the accomplishment of the mission of the FAA.

Sponsors who wish to maintain certified training centers are mandated to report to this collection. This collection is necessary to ensure that those who must comply with Title 14 CFR part 61, part 63, part 91, part 121, part 135, part 141, and part 142 are able to provide adequate crewmember training and qualification. This

collection also helps to ensure safety-of-flight by ensuring those who operate under these parts of the regulation and use flight simulation in lieu of aircraft for these functions, receive and maintain complete and adequate training, testing, checking, and experience. The FAA will use the information it collects and reviews to ensure compliance and adherence to regulations and, where necessary, to take enforcement action on violators of the regulations.

Respondents: 62 Flight Simulation Device Operators, 2 new annually.

Frequency: Annually.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: Varies per Requirement.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 94,812 Hours.

Issued in Washington DC on May 29, 2026.

Sandra L. Ray,

Aviation Safety Inspector, AFS–260.

[FR Doc. 2026–10967 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2025–0886]

Commercial Driver's License: Jenifer Sanchez Vilchis; Application for Exemption

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA requests public comment on Jenifer Sanchez Vilchis's application for an exemption to permit Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients with valid Employment Authorization Documents to obtain and hold a Class B passenger-vehicle Commercial Driver's License (CDL) under the same conditions as other lawfully work-authorized individuals. Ms. Sanchez Vilchis requests an immediate, temporary exemption to allow States to issue Class B CDLs to DACA holders. FMCSA is required by statute to publish a notice explaining each exemption request. This notice does not indicate that FMCSA intends to grant the requested exemption. FMCSA reviews the application, safety analyses, and public comments submitted and may grant or deny the exemption.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket Number FMCSA–2025–0886 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov.* See the Public Participation and Request for Comments section below for further information.
- *Mail:* Dockets Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W58–213, Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Dockets Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W58–213, Washington, DC 20590–0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9317 or (202) 366–9826 before visiting Dockets Operations.
- *Fax:* (202) 493–2251.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the ''Public Participation and Request for Comments'' portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for instructions on submitting comments. Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number (FMCSA–2025–0886) for this notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to *www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

Privacy Act: In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its exemption process. DOT posts these comments, including any personal information the commenter provides, to *www.regulations.gov,* as described in the system of records notice DOT/ALL–14 FDMS (Federal Docket Management System (FDMS)), which can be reviewed at *https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/privacy-act-system-records-notices.* The comments are posted without edit and are searchable by the name of the submitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Clemente, Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards, FMCSA; (771) 216–2436; or *richard.clemente@dot.gov.* If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dockets Operations at (202) 366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Participation and Request for Comments

FMCSA encourages you to participate by submitting comments and related materials.

A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (FMCSA–2025–0886), indicate the specific section of this document to which the comment applies, and provide a reason for your suggestions or recommendations. You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FMCSA-2025-0886/document,* click on this notice, click ''Comment,'' and type your comment into the text box on the following screen.

If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Comments received after the comment closing date will be filed in the public docket and will be considered to the extent practicable.

B. Confidential Business Information (CBI)

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to the notice contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to the notice, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission that constitutes CBI as ''PROPIN'' to indicate it contains proprietary information. FMCSA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the Freedom of Information Act, and they will not be placed in the public docket of the notice. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Brian Dahlin, Chief, Regulatory Evaluation Division, Office of Policy, FMCSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001 or via email at *brian.g.dahlin@dot.gov.* At this time, you need not send a duplicate hardcopy of your electronic CBI submissions to FMCSA headquarters. Any comments FMCSA

receives not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this notice.

C. Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, go to *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FMCSA-2025-0886/document* and choose the document to review. To view comments, click this notice, then click ''Document Comments.'' If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket by visiting Docket Operations in room W58–213 of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9317 or (202) 366–9826 before visiting Dockets Operations.

II. Legal Basis

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b) to grant exemptions from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(a)). The Agency must provide the public an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including the applicant's safety analysis. The Agency must provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews the application, safety analyses, and public comments submitted and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption, pursuant to the standard set forth in 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1). The Agency must publish its decision in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)). If granted, the notice will identify the regulatory provision from which the applicant will be exempt, the effective period, and all terms and conditions of the exemption (49 CFR 381.315(c)(1)). If the exemption is denied, the notice will explain the reason for the denial (49 CFR 381.315(c)(2)). The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

III. Applicant's Request

Current Regulatory Requirements

On February 13, 2026, FMCSA published a final rule amending the Federal regulations for State Driver's Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) issuing commercial driving credentials to foreign-domiciled individuals, effective March 16, 2026 (91 FR 7044).[1] Under 49 CFR 383.73(f)(3)(ii)(A), as amended, SDLAs must not issue non-domiciled commercial learner's permit or CDL privileges unless the applicant provides evidence of lawful immigration status, as defined under 49 CFR 383.5. Section 383.5 provides that ''evidence of lawful immigration status'' means a Form I–94/94A with an unexpired Admit Until Date indicating a classification of H–2A-Temporary Agricultural Workers, H–2B-Temporary Non-Agricultural Workers, or E–2-Treaty Investors. DACA recipients who do not possess evidence of lawful immigration status are thus ineligible for a non-domiciled CLP or CDL (91 FR 7044, 7055).

Applicant's Request

Ms. Sanchez Vilchis states that she is a DACA recipient residing in California. She states that California denied her application for Class B CDL with Passenger and School Bus endorsements because of FMCSA's amended regulations limiting eligibility for non-domiciled CDLs. She requests an exemption to obtain and hold a Class B passenger-vehicle CDL under the same conditions as other lawfully work-authorized individuals, stating that the denial was based solely on her immigration category, not on any safety or qualification deficiency.

The applicant's exemption application also included a petition to amend FMCSA's regulations to allow SDLAs to issue CDLs to DACA recipients with valid work authorization under federal immigration programs. That petition was added to FMCSA's rulemaking docket, FMCSA–2025–0622, during the comment period and was considered as a filed comment.

Applicant's Equivalent Level of Safety

Ms. Sanchez Vilchis believes the exemption would not compromise safety, as she states that she lawfully possesses a DACA-based Employment Authorization Document and has completed all of the California and Highway Patrol requirements for a Class B CDL with a Passenger and School-Bus endorsement.

The applicant asserts that she trained five days a week for six hours a day, passed the General Knowledge, Passenger, and Air Brakes tests, and passed the pre-trip and road exams on her first attempt. Ms. Sanchez Vilchis states that the training she received was rigorous, safety-focused, and conducted under State and Federal standards. She further provides the following information to support what she believes is an equivalent level of safety:

(1) She has resided in the U.S. since the age of one;

(2) She holds three associate degrees and one bachelor's degree with honors;

(3) Class B training is held to a higher standard than Class A [training] and focuses on the transport of human passengers with zero risk tolerance;

(4) She has no criminal record or traffic violations.

Ms. Sanchez Vilchis further added that FMCSA's amended regulations arose from incidents involving Class A tractor-trailer drivers engaged in freight transport. Conversely, Class B licensing governs passenger vehicles such as school buses and coaches, which are subject to more stringent testing, supervision, and background-check requirements.

A copy of Ms. Sanchez Vilchis' application for exemption is available for review in the docket for this notice.

IV. Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on Jenifer Sanchez Vilchis' application for an exemption from the restrictions on State issuance of non-domiciled CDLs in 49 CFR 383.73(f) and/or the definition of ''evidence of lawful immigration status'' in 49 CFR 383.5. The requested exemption would allow States to issue non-domiciled Class B CDLs to DACA recipients who have valid Employment Authorization Documents. All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date will be considered and will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator of Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–11016 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

[1] The final rule reaffirms, with minor changes, the provisions of the interim final rule (IFR) published on September 29, 2025 (90 FR 46509). However, as explained in the final rule, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued an Order on November 10, 2026 that administratively stayed the effective date of the IFR in response to two Petitions for Review challenging the IFR (91 FR 7047). FMCSA is therefore treating Ms. Sanchez Vilchis' exemption application as both a comment on the IFR and as a request for relief from the final rule provision, as amended (as opposed to the IFR provision). Various comments from Ms. Sanchez Vilchis were posted to the docket at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FMCSA-2025-0622/document* (retrievable by entering ''Vilchis'' into the comments search box) and addressed in the final rule response to comments (91 FR 7054–7055).

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Foreign Assets Control

Notice of OFAC Sanctions Actions

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is publishing the names of one or more persons whose property and interests in property have been unblocked and who have been removed from the SDN List.

DATES: See Supplementary Information for relevant dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: OFAC: Associate Director for Global Targeting, 202–622–2420; Assistant Director for Licensing, 202–622–2480; Assistant Director for Sanctions Compliance, 202–622–2490 or *https://ofac.treasury.gov/contact-ofac.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability

The SDN List and additional information concerning OFAC sanctions programs are available on OFAC's website: *https://ofac.treasury.gov.*

Notice of OFAC Actions

On May 28, 2026, OFAC determined that the property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of the following persons are unblocked and they have been removed from the SDN List.

Individuals

AL MAZIDIH, Badran Turki Hishan (a.k.a. AL MEZIDI, Badran Turki Hishan; a.k.a. AL-MAZIDIH, Badran Turki al-Hishan; a.k.a. AL-SHA'BANI, Badran Turki Hisham al-Mazidih; a.k.a. AL-TURKI, Badran; a.k.a. HISHAM, Badran al-Turki; a.k.a. IIISIIAN, Badran Turki; a.k.a. SIIALASII, Badran Turki Hayshan; a.k.a. "ΛBU 'ΛBDΛLLΛH"; a.k.a. "ΛBU ΛBDULLΛH"; a.k.a. "ΛBU 'ΛZZΛM"; a.k.a. "ABU GHADIYAH"), Zabadani, Syria; DOB 1977; alt. DOB 1978; alt. DOB 1979; POB Mosul, Iraq; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886 (individual) [SDGT]. AL-BINALI, Turki Mubarak Abdullah Ahmad (a.k.a. AL BINALI, Turki Mubarak Abdullah; a.k.a. AL-BENALI, Turki; a.k.a. AL-BIN'ALI, Turki; a.k.a. AL-BIN'ALI, Turki Mubarak; a.k.a. "ABU DERGHAM"; a.k.a. "AL-ATHARI, Abu Human"; a.k.a. "AL-ATHARI, Abu Human Bakr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz"; a.k.a. "AL-ATHARI, Abu-Bakr"; a.k.a. "AL-BAHRAYNI, Abu Hudhayfa"; a.k.a. "AL-MUDARI, Abu Khuzayma"; a.k.a. "AL-SALAFI, Abu Hazm"; a.k.a. "AL-SULΛMI, Λbu Sufyan"); DOB 03 Sep 1984; POB Al Muharraq, Bahrain; nationality Bahrain; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Passport 2231616 (Bahrain) issued 02 Jan 2013 expires 02 Jan 2023; alt. Passport 1272611 (Bahrain) issued 01 Apr 2003; Identification Number 840901356 (individual) [SDGT] (Linked To: ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT). AL-HABABI, Nayf Salam Muhammad Ujaym (a.k.a. AL-HABABI, Nayef Salam Muhammad Ujaym; a.k.a. AL-QAHTANI AL-QATARI, Farouq; a.k.a. AL-QAHTANI, Faruq; a.k.a. AL-QAHTANI, Sheikh Farooq; a.k.a. AL-QATARI, Faruq; a.k.a. AL-QATARI, Sheikh Farooq; a.k.a. FAROUK, Shaykh Imran), Afghanistan; DOB 01 Jan 1979 to 31 Dec 1981; POB Saudi Arabia; nationality Qatar; alt. nationality Saudi Arabia; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Passport 592667 (Qatar) issued 03 May 2007; Sheikh (individual) [SDGT] (Linked To: AL QA'IDA). AL-HARZI, Tariq Bin-Al-Tahar Bin Al Falih Al-'Awni (a.k.a. AI-HARZI, Tariq Bin Tahir Bin Al-Falih Al-Auni; a.k.a. AI-HARZI, Tariq Tahir Falih AI-Awni; a.k.a. AL-HARAZI, Tarik Bin al-Falah al-Awni; a.k.a. AL-HARZI, Tariq Tahir Faleh Al-Awni; a.k.a. AL-TUNISI, Abu 'Umar; a.k.a. AL-TUNISI, Tariq; a.k.a. AL-TUNISI, Tariq Abu 'Umar; a.k.a. AL-TUNISI, Tariq Abu Umar; a.k.a. EL HARAZI, Tarek Ben El Felah El Aouni; a.k.a. HARZI, Tariq Tahir Falih 'Awni; a.k.a. "HOUDOUD, Abu Omar"); DOB 03 May 1982; alt. DOB 05 Mar 1982; alt. DOB 1981; POB Tunis, Tunisia; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Passport Z-050399 (individual) [SDGT]. ALLANE, Hacene (a.k.a. ABDELHAY, al-Sheikh; a.k.a. AHCENE, Cheib; a.k.a. "ABU AL-FOUTOUH"; a.k.a. "BOULAHIA"; a.k.a. "HASSAN THE OLD"); DOB 17 Jan 1941; POB El Menea, Algeria; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886 (individual) [SDGT]. AL-WARFALLI, Mahmud (a.k.a. AL-WERFALLI,

Mahmoud; a.k.a. AL-WERFALLI, Mahmoud Mustafa Busayf), Benghazi, Libya; DOB 1978; nationality Libya; Gender Male (individual) [GLOMAG]. CHILINGAROV, Artur Nikolaevich (Cyrillic: ЧИЛИНГАРОВ, Артур Николаевич), Russia; DOB 25 Sep 1939; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. AVDEEVA, Elena Osipovna (Cyrillic: АВДЕЕВА, Елена Осиповна) (a.k.a. AVDEEVA, Elena), Russia; DOB 19 Jul 1968; POB Cherepovets, Vologda Oblast, Russia; nationality Russia; Gender Female; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. IKANOVIC, Bajro; DOB 08 Nov 1976; POB Hrncici, Bratunac, Bosnia and Herzegovina; citizen Bosnia and Herzegovina; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; National ID No. JMB 0811976181415 (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (individual) [SDGT]. BEN DAHA, Mahri Sidi Amar (a.k.a. DAHA, Sidi Amar Ould; a.k.a. DAHA, Yoro Ould; a.k.a. DAYA, Yoro Ould; a.k.a. "Yoro"), Golf Rue 708 Door 345, Gao, Mali; DOB 1978; POB Djebock, Mali; nationality Mali; Gender Male; National ID No. 11262/1547 (Mali) (individual) [MALI-EO13882]. CORONEL VILLAREAL, Ignacio (a.k.a. "NACHO CORONEL"), Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico; DOB 01 Feb 1954; POB Veracruz, Mexico; alt. POB Canelas, Durango, Mexico; nationality Mexico; citizen Mexico (individual) [SDNTK]. UZDENOV, Dzhasharbek Borisovich (Cyrillic: УЗДЕНОВ, Джашарбек Борисович), Russia; DOB 25 Jan 1967; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. EL-AICH, Dhou (a.k.a. "ABDEL HAK"); DOB 05 Aug 1964; POB Debila, Algeria; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886 (individual) [SDGT]. GOMEZ OCAMPO, Davinson (a.k.a. "GORDO"), c/o GOMEZ MARIN LTDA., Ansermanuevo, Valle, Colombia; Calle 16 No. 1-58, Cartago, Valle, Colombia; DOB 10 Jul 1960; Cedula No. 2470433 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. GOTO, Tadamasa (Japanese: 後藤忠正; Japanese: 後藤忠政) (a.k.a. GOTOU, Chyuei; a.k.a. "AJA, Chuei" (Japanese: "アジャ忠叡"); a.k.a. "CHUEI" (Japanese: "忠叡"); a.k.a. "OKNHA, Chuei"), Cambodia; DOB 16 Sep 1942; POB Tokyo, Japan; citizen Cambodia (individual) [TCO] (Linked To: YAKUZA). HAMMAM, Yahya Abu (a.k.a. AKACHA, Jamel; a.k.a. DJAMEL, Akkacha; a.k.a. EL HAMMAM, Yahia Abou); DOB 1979; nationality Algeria; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886 (individual) [SDGT]. HARRACH, Bekkay (a.k.a. AL HAFIDH ABU TALHA DER DEUTSCHE); DOB 04 Sep 1977; POB Berkane, Morocco; nationality Germany; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Passport 5208116575 (Germany) expires 07 Sep 2013; Driver's

License No. J17001W6Z12; National ID No. 5209243072 (Germany) expires 07 Sep 2013; Believed to be in the Afghanistan/Pakistan border area (individual) [SDGT]. IMPERIAL CASTRO, Eliseo (a.k.a. "CHEYO ANTRAX"), Mexico; DOB 17 Jan 1984; POB Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico; citizen Mexico; Gender Male; R.F.C. IECE840117RCA (Mexico); C.U.R.P. IECE840117HSLMSL04 (Mexico) (individual) [SDNTK]. INZUNZA INZUNZA, Gonzalo (a.k.a. ARAUJO INZUNZA, Gonzalo; a.k.a. LEON ANDRADE, Bernabe; a.k.a. "MACHO PRIETO"), Sonora, Mexico; Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico; DOB 17 Aug 1971; POB Sinaloa, Mexico; nationality Mexico; citizen Mexico; Passport 040016733 (Mexico); C.U.R.P. IUIG710817HSLNNN08 (Mexico) (individual) [SDNTK]. IZTUETA BARANDICA, Enrique; DOB 30 Jul 1955; POB Santurce (Vizcaya Province), Spain; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; D.N.I. 14.929.950; member ETA (individual) [SDGT]. JANJALANI, Khadafi Abubakar (a.k.a. JANJALANI, Khadafy; a.k.a. JANJALANI, Khaddafy Abubakar; a.k.a. "ABU MUKTAR"); DOB 03 Mar 1975; POB Isabela, Basilan, Philippines; nationality Philippines; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886 (individual) [SDGT]. JOHNSON, Prince Yormie (a.k.a. JOHNSON, Prince; a.k.a. JOHNSON, Prince Y.), Nimba County, Liberia; DOB 06 Jul 1952; POB Gomaplay, Liberia; nationality Liberia; Gender Male (individual) [GLOMAG]. KHALED, Tohami (a.k.a. AL-TUHAMI, Khaled; a.k.a. KHALED, Al-Tohamy; a.k.a. KHALED, al-Tuhami); DOB 1946; POB Genzur, Libya; General; Director of the Internal Security Office (individual) [LIBYA2]. KOLBAYEV, Kamchybek Asanbekovich (a.k.a. ASANBEK, Kamchi; a.k.a. ASANBEK, Kamchy; a.k.a. KAMCHI, Asanbeka; a.k.a. KOLBAEV, Kamchi; a.k.a. KOLBAEV, Kamchibek; a.k.a. KOLBAYEV, Kamchi (Cyrillic: КОЛЬБАЕВ, КАМЧЫ); a.k.a. KOLBAYEV, Kamchibek (Cyrillic: КОЛЬБАЕВ, КАМЧИБЕК); a.k.a. KOLBAYEV, Kamchy; a.k.a. "KAMCHI BISHKEKSKIY" (Cyrillic: "КАМЧИ БИШКЕКСКИЙ"); a.k.a. "KOLYA-KYRGYZ"), Bahar 1 Sector, C09-T02 Tower, Apartment 3203, Dubai 31672, United Arab Emirates; Murjan 6, Jumeirah Beach Residences, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; DOB 03 Aug 1974; alt. DOB 01 Jan 1973; POB Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan; nationality Kyrgyzstan; Gender Male; Passport AC2499982 (Kyrgyzstan); alt. Passport AC732709 (Kyrgyzstan); Identification Number 20308197410028 (Kyrgyzstan); alt. Identification Number 1002001 (Kyrgyzstan) (individual) [SDNTK] [TCO] (Linked To: THIEVES-IN-LAW). LAZCANO LAZCANO, Heriberto, Mariano Zavala 51, Seccion 16, Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico; Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, Mexico; DOB 25 Dec 1974; alt. DOB 25 Jan 1974; alt. DOB 01 Jan 1970; POB Hidalgo, Mexico; alt. POB Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico; nationality Mexico; citizen Mexico; R.F.C. LALH741225 (Mexico); C.U.R.P. LALH741225HHGZZR03 (Mexico) (individual) [SDNTK]. TARASENKO, Michail Vasilevich (Cyrillic: ТАРАСЕНКО, Михаил Васильевич), Russia; DOB 21 Nov 1947; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive

Order 14024.; Member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. NAJERA TALAMANTES, Sigifredo, Dionicio Carreon 228, Colonia Alianza, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico; Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico; Coahuila, Mexico; DOB 31 Aug 1980; POB Delicias, Coahuila, Mexico; nationality Mexico; citizen Mexico (individual) [SDNTK]. PETRUNIN, Nikolay Yuryevich (Cyrillic: ПЕТРУНИН, Николай Юрьевич), Russia; DOB 27 Feb 1976; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. NISHIGUCHI, Shigeo, c/o 6-4-21 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan; DOB 1929 to 1930 (individual) [TCO] (Linked To: SUMIYOSHI-KAI). PANCHENKO, Igor Vladimirovich (Cyrillic: ПАНЧЕНКО, Игорь Владимирович) (a.k.a. PANCHENKO, Igor), Russia; DOB 18 May 1963; POB Aleksin, Tula Oblast, Russia; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. KACHKAYEV, Pavel Ryurikovich (Cyrillic: КАЧКАЕВ, Павел Рюрикович), Russia; DOB 04 Oct 1951; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. SECHIN, Ivan Igorevich (a.k.a. SECHIN, Ivan (Cyrillic: СЕЧИН, Иван)), Moscow, Russia; Shvedskiy Typik 3 KV38, Moscow 125009, Russia; DOB 03 Jan 1989; POB St. Petersburg, Russia; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Passport 722759197 (Russia) issued 24 Jan 2013 expires 24 Jan 2023 (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024] (Linked To: SECHIN, Igor Ivanovich).SHARROUF, Khaled (a.k.a. ZARQAWI AL AUSTR, Abu; a.k.a. ZARQAWI AUSTRALI, Abu; a.k.a. ZARQAWI, Abu), Syria; Iraq; DOB 23 Feb 1981; POB Auburn, New South Wales, Australia; nationality Australia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Passport L3135591 (Australia); alt. Passport L5210356 (Australia); alt. Passport N723649 (Australia); Driver's License No. 12789234 (Australia) (individual) [SDGT] (Linked To: ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT). SWE, Myint, Burma; DOB 24 May 1951; Gender Male (individual) [BURMA-EO14014]. SAKHAROVA, Tatiana Anatolyevna (Cyrillic: САХАРОВА, Татьяна Анатольевна) (a.k.a. SAKHAROVA, Tatyana Anatolyevna), Russia; DOB 16 Jun 1973; nationality Russia; Gender Female; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. USUGA TORRES, Arley (a.k.a. "07"; a.k.a. "CERO SIETE"); DOB 14 Aug 1979; POB Tierralta, Cordoba, Colombia; citizen Colombia; Cedula No. 71255292 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNTK]. SUBAREV, Viktor Vladislavvich (Cyrillic: ЗУБАРЕВ, Виктор Владиславович), Russia; DOB 20 Feb 1961; nationality Russia; Gender Male;

Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. LEBEDEV, Vladimir Albertovich (Cyrillic: ЛЕБЕДЕВ, Владимир Альбертович), Russia; DOB 23 Apr 1962; nationality Russia; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (individual) [RUSSIA-EO14024]. ZAGARIA, Nicola; DOB 10 Oct 1927; POB San Cipriano D'Aversa, Italy (individual) [TCO]. ECHEVERRY HERRERA, Hernando (a.k.a. ECHEVERRI HERRERA, Hernando), c/o INDUSTRIA DE PESCA SOBRE EL PACIFICO S.A., Buenaventura, Colombia; Cedula No. 1625525 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. HERNANDEZ ARBOLEDA, Sandra Milena, c/o COMERCIALIZADORA DE CAFE DEL OCCIDENTE CODECAFE LTDA., Pereira, Risaralda, Colombia; c/o INVERSIONES MACARNIC PATINO Y CIA S.C.S., Pereira, Risaralda, Colombia; Cedula No. 42109136 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. MENDEZ SALAZAR, John Jairo, Calle 1 No. 56-109 Casa 32, Cali, Colombia; Carrera 42 No. 5B-81, Cali, Colombia; c/o MAQUINARIA TECNICA Y TIERRAS LTDA., Cali, Colombia; Cedula No. 98515360 (Colombia); Passport 98515360 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. MONTANO ALVAREZ, Luis Hernando, Carrera 16A No. 33D-20, Cali, Colombia; c/o GRANJA LA SIERRA LTDA., Cali, Colombia; Cedula No. 16671124 (Colombia); Passport 16671124 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. MYINT, Li (a.k.a. HSING, Su; a.k.a. "SU HSING"; a.k.a. "U LI MYINT"), c/o HONG PANG ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY CO., LTD., Yangon, Burma; c/o HONG PANG GEMS & JEWELLERY COMPANY LIMITED, Burma; c/o HONG PANG MINING COMPANY LIMITED, Yangon, Burma; c/o HONG PANG TEXTILE COMPANY LIMITED, Yangon, Burma; c/o HONG PANG GENERAL TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED, Kyaington, Burma; c/o HONG PANG LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED, Burma; 525 Merchant Street, Rangoon, Burma; Tangyan, Burma; National ID No. 13/Ta Ta Na (Naing)019077 (Burma) (individual) [SDNTK]. PAO, Yu Yi (a.k.a. "PAO YU YI"; a.k.a. "TA RANG"), Panghsang, Shan, Burma (individual) [SDNTK]. PAO, Hua Chiang (a.k.a. "PAO HUA CHIANG"; a.k.a. "TA KAT"), Panghsang, Shan, Burma (individual) [SDNTK]. VELASQUEZ RODRIGUEZ, Ruth Cecilia, c/o CANALES VENECIA LTDA., Envigado, Antioquia, Colombia; c/o FLOREZ HERMANOS LTDA., Medellin, Colombia; c/o INVERSIONES FLOREZ Y FLOREZ Y CIA S.C.A., Medellin, Colombia; nationality Colombia; citizen Colombia; Cedula No. 32335973 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. VELEZ TRUJILLO, Jairo de Jesus, c/o CANALES VENECIA LTDA., Envigado, Antioquia, Colombia; nationality Colombia; citizen Colombia; Cedula No. 70410564 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. YUN, Cheng (a.k.a. "YIN CHEIN"; a.k.a. "YIN CHIN"; a.k.a. "YUN CHENG"), 11, Ngu Shwe Wah Road, Between 64th and 54th Street, Chan mya Si Township, Mandalay, Burma; National ID No. (HWI)040182 (Burma) (individual) [SDNTK]. ALVAREZ DEL RIO, Fredy de

Jesus; POB Colombia; Cedula No. 98557177 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. CASTRO PAEZ, Jhon Paul, c/o CABLES NACIONALES CANAL S.A., Barranquilla, Colombia; POB Colombia; Cedula No. 72223501 (Colombia) (individual) [SDNT]. LOGAN MOREY, Elvis Angus (a.k.a. "BURTON BURGESS"); DOB 28 Jul 1963; POB Toledo District, Belize; Passport P0017003 (Belize); SSN 561-77-9011 (United States) (individual) [SDNT]. ZEGARRA MARTINEZ, Guillermo Jean Pierre, Pasaje Ismael Pozo 159, Torres De San Borja, Lima, Peru; DOB 06 Jan 1984; POB Lima, Peru; Gender Male; Passport 4085740 (Peru) issued 12 Dec 2012 expires 17 Dec 2017; Driver's License No. Q-412185038 (Peru); RUC # 10421850386 (Peru); National ID No. 42185038-6 (Peru) (individual) [SDNTK].

Entities

AGROPECUARIA PALMA DEL RIO S.A., Carrera 5 No. 29-32, C.C. La Quinta, Ibague, Tolima, Colombia; Carrera 17 No. 91-42, Apt. 502, Bogota, Colombia; NIT # 830061299-7 (Colombia) [SDNT]. CAVIEDES DILEO Y CIA. S.C.S., Calle 21 Norte No. 3N-64, Cali, Colombia; NIT # 800113437-2 (Colombia) [SDNT]. COLOMBIANA DE CERDOS LTDA. (a.k.a. COLCERDOS LTDA.), Km. 3 Via Marsella Parque Industrial, Pereira, Colombia; Apartado Aereo 3786, Pereira, Colombia; NIT # 800018928-0 (Colombia) [SDNT]. COMERCIALIZADORA DE CARNES LTDA. (a.k.a. COMECARNES LTDA.), Km. 3 Via Marsella, Pereira, Colombia; NIT # 800076369-0 (Colombia) [SDNT]. CONSTRUCTORA AMERICA S.A., Carrera 63 No. 17-07, Bogota, Colombia; NIT # 830125002-3 (Colombia) [SDNT]. DISTRIBUIDORA DE ELEMENTOS PARA LA CONSTRUCCION S.A. (a.k.a. D'ELCON S.A.), Carrera 23D No. 13B-59, Cali, Colombia; NIT # 800117780-2 (Colombia) [SDNT]. INVERSIONES Y REPRESENTACIONES S.A. (a.k.a. IRSA S.A.), Carrera 43A No. 16A Sur - 38, Barrio El Poblado, Medellin, Colombia; NIT # 811040270-5 (Colombia) [SDNT]. MATADERO METROPOLITANO LTDA., Km. 3 Via Marsella Parque Industrial, Pereira, Colombia; Carrera 10 No. 34-21 Dosq., Pereira, Colombia; Apartado Aereo 3786, Pereira, Colombia; NIT # 891412986-8 (Colombia) [SDNT]. SERVIAUTOS UNO A 1A LIMITADA (a.k.a. DIAGNOSTICENTRO LA GARANTIA), Calle 34 No. 5A-25, Cali, Colombia; Carrera 15 No. 44-68, Cali, Colombia; NIT # 800032413-8 (Colombia) [SDNT].

Vessels

ABYSS (T8A4595) Palau flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9157765; MMSI 511101287 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: QUOC VIET MARINE TRANSPORT JSC). BLUEFINS Oil Products Tanker Djibouti flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of

Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9221657; MMSI 621819069 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: HARBOUR SHIP MANAGEMENT LIMITED). BONITA QUEEN (f.k.a. KAMILA) Crude Oil Tanker St. Kitts & Nevis flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9105906 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: KHADIJA SHIP MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED). BUENO Oil Products Tanker Djibouti flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9282443; MMSI 621819070 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: HARBOUR SHIP MANAGEMENT LIMITED). DESPINA ANDRIANNA Crude Oil Tanker Liberia flag; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9182667 (vessel) [VENEZUELA-EO13850] (Linked To: BALLITO BAY SHIPPING INCORPORATED). FORTUNE GALAXY (3E2520) Crude Oil Tanker Panama flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9257010; MMSI 352001505 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: GLOBAL TECH MARINE SERVICES INC). JASMINE (f.k.a. EMMA) Chemical/Products Tanker Iran flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9105085 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: AFRICO 1 OFF-SHORE SAL). LIANA (a.k.a. LINNET) (T8A3765) Oil Products Tanker Palau flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9236755; MMSI 511100596 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: ECO MAX FZE). LINDA (Cyrillic: ЛИНДА) (f.k.a. "LADY D" (Cyrillic: "ЛЕДИ Д")) Crude Oil Tanker 61,991GRT Russia flag; Secondary sanctions risk: See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024.; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9256858 (vessel) [RUSSIA-EO14024] (Linked To: PSB LIZING OOO). MIA (a.k.a. FREEDOM; a.k.a. MAGUS) (8RCY1) Crude Oil Tanker Guyana flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9018464 (vessel) [SDGT] [VENEZUELA-EO13850] (Linked To: FIDES SHIP MANAGEMENT LLC; Linked To: VELINE SHIPTRADE INCORPORATED). MOLECULE (TJMC241) Crude Oil Tanker Cameroon flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9209300; MMSI 613003214 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: GLOBAL TECH MARINE SERVICES INC). NOLAN (f.k.a. "OSLO") Oil Products Tanker Panama flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9179701; MMSI 354798000 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: PONTUS NAVIGATION CORP.). OTARIA (a.k.a. "WINSOME") (TJM0154) Crude Oil Tanker Cameroon flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9192260; MMSI 613914400 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: STELLAR WAVE MARINE L.L.C). SOLAN (f.k.a. RISE GLORY) Crude Oil Tanker Iran flag; Secondary sanctions risk: section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886; Vessel Registration Identification IMO 9155808 (vessel) [SDGT] (Linked To: MEHDI GROUP).

(*Authority:* 31 CFR chapter V.)

Bradley T. Smith,

Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request on Form 8857—Request for Innocent Spouse Relief

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the IRS is inviting comments on the information collection request outlined in this notice.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before August 3, 2026 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Andres Garcia, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or by email to *pra.comments@irs.gov.* Include ''OMB Control No. 1545–1596'' in the subject line of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: View the latest drafts of the tax forms related to the information collection listed in this notice at *https://www.irs.gov/draft-tax-forms.* Requests for additional information or copies of this collection should be directed to Marcus W. McCrary, 470–769–2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The IRS, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the IRS assess the impact and minimize the burden of its information collection requirements. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record, and viewable on relevant websites. For this reason, please do not include in your comments information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal information. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Title: Form 8857—Request for Innocent Spouse Relief.

OMB Control Number: 1545–1596.

Form Number: 8857.

Abstract: Section 6103(e) of the Internal revenue code allows taxpayers to request, and IRS to grant, ''innocent spouse'' relief when: taxpayer filed a joint return with tax substantially understated; taxpayer establishes no knowledge of or benefit from, the understatement; and it would be inequitable to hold the taxpayer liable. Form 8857 is used to request relief from liability of an understatement of tax on a joint return resulting from a grossly erroneous item attributable to the spouse.

Current Actions: There is no change to the previously approved information collection;

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection

Affected Public: Individuals and households, etc.

Estimated Number of Responses: 50,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 6 hours, 19 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 316,000.

Dated: May 27, 2026.

Marcus W. McCrary,

Tax Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2026–10973 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4831–GV–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request on Information Regarding Request for Refund of Social Security Tax Erroneously Withheld on Wages Recovered by a Nonresident Alien on an F, J, or M Type Visa

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the IRS is inviting comments on the information collection request outlined in this notice.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before August 3, 2026 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Andres Garcia, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or by email to *pra.comments@irs.gov.* Include ''OMB Control No. 1545–1862'' in the subject line of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: View the latest drafts of the tax forms related to the information collection listed in this notice at *https://www.irs.gov/draft-tax-forms.* Requests for additional information or copies of this collection should be directed to LaNita Van Dyke, 202–317–6009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The IRS, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the IRS assess the impact and minimize the burden of its information collection requirements. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record, and be viewable on relevant websites. For this reason, please do not include in your comments information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal information. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Title: Information Regarding Request for Refund of Social Security Tax Erroneously Withheld on Wages Recovered by a Nonresident Alien on an F, J, or M Type Visa.

OMB Control Number: 1545–1862.

Form Number: 8316.

Abstract: Certain foreign students and other nonresident visitors are exempt from FICA tax for services performed as specified in the Immigration and Naturalization Act. Applicants for refund of this FICA tax withheld by their employer must complete Form 8316 to verify that they are entitled to a refund of the FICA, that the employer has not paid back any part of the tax withheld and that the taxpayer has attempted to secure a refund from his/her employer.

Current Actions: There is no change to the previously approved information collection.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Number of Responses: 25,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,250.

Dated: May 21, 2026.

LaNita Van Dyke,

Tax Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2026–10985 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4831–GV–P

FEDERAL REGISTER

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Part II

Postal Service

39 CFR Part 111

New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products; Final Rule

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: On April 9, 2026, the Postal Service (USPS) filed a notice of mailing services price adjustments with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), effective July 12, 2026. This final rule contains the revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service,* Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) to implement the changes coincident with the price adjustments and other DMM changes.

DATES: Effective July 12, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Mills at (202) 268–7433 or Doriane Harley at (202) 268–2537.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 27, 2026, the PRC favorably reviewed the price adjustments proposed by the Postal Service. The price adjustments and DMM revisions are scheduled to become effective on July 12, 2026. Final prices are available under Docket No. R2026–1 (Order No. 9584) on the Postal Regulatory Commission's website at *www.prc.gov.*

Eliminate ADC Rate Category From Market Dominant Mail Classes

The Postal Service will remove ADC/AADC rates for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, and Periodicals and replacing with 3-Digit rates. In addition, nomenclature will be revised to label ''Mixed ADC'', ''Mixed AADC'', and ''Mixed NDC'' as ''Mixed'' for First-Class, USPS Marketing Mail, and Periodicals.

Restructure Periodicals Outside County Rates

Currently, Outside County Periodicals are charged piece, pound, bundle, and container rates. The Postal Service will simplify the Periodicals pricing structure to more closely resemble the USPS Marketing Mail pricing structure. This will include eliminating bundle rates and container rates and expanding the SCF Pallet and 5-digit/Direct Container discounts to include Periodicals. Nonmachinable barcoded/nonbarcoded flats will be priced the same as parcels and ADC entry will be eliminated.

Marketing Mail Weight Adjustments and Addition of Heavy Printed Matter

The Postal Service is increasing the maximum weight for Marketing Mail automation and non-automation flat-shaped pieces from 16 ounces to 20 ounces and increasing the maximum weight for Carrier Route (CR) flats to 24 ounces. Heavy Printed Matter (HPM) will be introduced for Marketing Mail parcels with a weight limit of 15 pounds for Commercial/Nonprofit non-fulfillment pieces.

Add 5D/Direct Container and SCF Pallet Discounts to USPS Marketing Mail Heavy Printed Matter

The Postal Service will extend the 5-digit Direct Container and SCF Pallet discounts to Heavy Printed Matter Presorted and Carrier Route parcels. Nonpresorted parcels will not be eligible for these discounts.

Minimum Volume Requirement for First-Class Cards and First-Class Letters When Combined in a Mailing

Currently, First-Class Mail (FCM) cards and FCM letters that are combined in the same mailing are subject to separate minimum presort volume criteria of 500 mailpieces of each mail type (card and letter). The Postal Service will now allow any combination of FCM Cards and FCM Letters that total 500 or more pieces to be combined into a mailing and presented for mailing at the presort price. This mail must be presented at the same time and on the same postage statement.

Package Barcode Quality Noncompliance Fee for Market Dominant Parcels

Currently, commercial Competitive parcels are subject to a noncompliance fee when a published set of package barcode quality criteria is not met. The Postal Service will implement a package barcode quality noncompliance fee for Market Dominant parcels, excluding Periodicals parcels and Heavy Printed Matter, that mirrors the existing fee for Competitive parcels.

Price Restructure for BPM Flats and Parcels Presorted and Carrier Route

Currently, Bound Printed Matter (BPM) presorted and Carrier Route flats and parcels are priced using both a piece and a pound rate. The Postal Service is changing the price structure for these pieces to better align with the price structure for nonpresorted BPM. This will eliminate the pound pricing and piece prices would apply in weight increments from 1 to 15 pounds based on entry of None (Origin), DSCF, or DDU.

Elimination of Bundling for Marketing Mail Flats Prepared in Flat Trays

Currently, mail preparation and presort options for USPS Marketing Mail flats presented in flat trays allow for bundling. The Postal Service is eliminating bundling for USPS Marketing Mail automation and nonautomation flats prepared in flat trays to align with current processing operations.

2027 Mailing Promotions

The Postal Service has been incenting mailers to integrate mobile technology and use innovative print techniques in commercial mail since 2012. These promotions have become an integral way for industry to try new things and innovate their mail campaigns. A 2027 Promotions Calendar is planned with opportunities for mailers to receive a postage discount by applying treatments or integrating technology into their mail campaigns. In addition to the slated 2027 promotions, the Postal Service is introducing two new promotions, Impact Messaging and Direct Mail Discovery.

These revisions will provide consistency within postal products and add value for customers.

The Postal Service received one formal comment on the May 2026 proposed rule (91 FR 19274–19310).

- *Comment:* The commenter requested clarification to 207.22.7 and 207.25 for Origin entry SCF trays.

Response: The Postal Service has the standards to reflect Origin entry SCF tray preparation as required.

- *Comment:* The commenter requested clarification to the basic requirements for HPM.

Response: The Postal Service has revised 243.9.1 to clarify HPM requirements.

The Postal Service adopts the described changes to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service,* Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations.*

We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, the Postal Service amends Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations as follows (see 39 CFR 111.1):

PART 111—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 13 U.S.C. 301–307; 18 U.S.C. 1692–1737; 39 U.S.C. 101, 401–404, 414, 416, 3001–3018, 3201–3220, 3401–3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3629, 3631–3633, 3641, 3681–3685, and 5001.

■ 2. Revise *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service,* Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) as follows:

Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)

* * * * *

200 Commercial Letters, Cards, Flats, and Parcels

201 Physical Standards

* * * * *

4.0 Physical Standards for Flats

* * * * *

4.7 Ineligible Flat-Size Pieces

* * * * *

Exhibit 4.7b Pricing for Flats Exceeding Maximum Deflection (See 4.6)

[Revise Exhibit 4.7b to read as follows:]

First-Class Mail Automation

Eligibility as presented	Eligibility with failed deflection
Automation 5-digit flat	Presorted flat.
Automation 3-digit	Presorted flat.
Automation SCF	Presorted flat.
Automation MXD	Presorted flat.

First-Class Mail Presorted

[Nonautomation]

Eligibility as presented	Eligibility with failed deflection
Presorted flat	Single-piece flat or USPS Ground Advantage—Commercial.

Periodicals Outside County

Piece price eligibility as presented	Piece price eligibility with failed deflection
Machinable barcoded 5-digit flat	Nonmachinable barcoded 5-digit flat.
Machinable barcoded 3-digit flat	Nonmachinable barcoded 3-digit flat.
Machinable barcoded SCF flat	Nonmachinable barcoded SCF flat.
Machinable barcoded MXD flat	Nonmachinable barcoded MXD flat.
Machinable nonbarcoded 5-digit flat	Nonmachinable nonbarcoded 5-digit flat.
Machinable nonbarcoded 3-digit flat	Nonmachinable nonbarcoded 3-digit flat.
Machinable nonbarcoded SCF flat	Nonmachinable nonbarcoded SCF flat.
Machinable nonbarcoded MXD flat	Nonmachinable nonbarcoded MXD flat.
Nonmachinable barcoded or nonbarcoded flat	Price claimed, if otherwise eligible.

Periodicals In-County

Piece price eligibility as presented	Piece price eligibility with failed deflection
Automation 5-digit flat	Nonautomation 5-digit flat.
Automation 3-digit flat	Nonautomation 3-digit flat.
Automation basic flat	Nonautomation basic flat.

USPS Marketing Mail

Eligibility as presented	Eligibility with failed deflection
Automation 5-digit flat	Nonautomation 5-digit flat.
Automation 3-digit flat	Nonautomation 3-digit flat.
Automation SCF flat	Nonautomation SCF flat.
Automation MXD flat	Nonautomation MXD flat.
Nonautomation flat (all sort levels with no entry discount)	Nonautomation MXD or None flat.
Nonautomation flat (all sort levels entered at DSCF)	Nonautomation MXD flat.

Bound Printed Matter

Eligibility as presented	Eligibility with failed deflection
Barcoded/nonbarcoded presorted flat	Presorted parcel.
Nonbarcoded nonpresorted flat	Price as claimed, if otherwise eligible.

* * * * *

5.0 Physical Standards for Nonautomation Flats

* * * * *

5.2 USPS Marketing Mail

5.2.1 Basic Physical Standards

These additional standards apply to USPS Marketing Mail flat-size pieces:

[Revise item 5.2.1(a) to read as follows:]

a. Each piece must weigh no more than 20 ounces (24 ounces for carrier route).

* * * * *

5.3 Bound Printed Matter

These additional standards apply to Bound Printed Matter: * * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. Bound Printed Matter may not weigh more than 15 pounds.

* * * * *

6.0 Physical Standards for Automation Flats

* * * * *

6.2 Additional Criteria for Automation Flats

* * * * *

6.2.2 Maximum Weight

Maximum weight limits are as follows: * * *

[Revise item 6.2.2(c) to read as follows:]

c. For USPS Marketing Mail, 20 ounces.

* * * * *

8.0 Additional Physical Standards by Class of Mail

* * * * *

[Add new 8.7 to read as follows:]

8.7 Heavy Printed Matter Parcels

Pieces mailed at Heavy Printed Matter prices may not weigh more than 15 pounds.

* * * * *

202. Elements on the Face of a Mailpiece

* * * * *

3.0 Placement and Content of Mail Markings

* * * * *

3.5 First-Class Mail and USPS Marketing Mail Markings

3.5.1 Types of Markings

Mailpieces must be marked under the corresponding standards to show the class of service and/or price paid: * * *

[Add new items a(6) and a(7) to read as follows:]

6. ''Heavy Printed Matter'' or ''HPM''

7. ''Nonprofit Heavy Printed Matter'' or ''Nonprofit HPM''

* * * * *

[Add new item (e) to read as follows:]

e. For Heavy Printed Matter carrier route price mail, the additional required marking is ''Carrier Route Presort'' (or ''CAR–RT SORT'').

* * * * *

203 Basic Postage Statement, Documentation, and Preparation Standards

* * * * *

3.0 Standardized Documentation for First-Class Mail, Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Flat-Size Bound Printed Matter

* * * * *

3.2 Format and Content

For First-Class Mail, Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Bound Printed Matter, standardized documentation includes: * * *

c. For mail in trays or sacks, list these required elements: * * *

[Revise item c(2) to read as follows:]

2. Tray/sack destination ZIP Code from top line of tray/sack label except that, for 3-digit carrier routes trays, list the individual 5-digit ZIP Codes in each tray. Leave blank for MXD WKG containers.

[Revise the first and second sentences of item c(3) to read as follows:]

3. The number of pieces for each 5-digit ZIP Code in 5-digit/scheme bundles or trays; for each 3-digit ZIP Code in 3-digit/scheme bundles or trays; for each 3-digit/scheme in SCF bundles or trays; for each SCF in mixed bundles or trays. Exception: documentation for 3-digit/scheme letters in SCF trays or for SCF letters in mixed trays is not required unless those trays contain overflow mail. * * *

[Delete item c(7) in its entirety:]

d. For bundles on pallets, list these required elements: * * *

[Revise item d(2) to read as follows:]

2. Pallet destination ZIP Code (or blank for MXD WKG pallets).

[Revise the second sentence of item d(4) to read as follows:]

4. * * * Document sectional center facility/local processing center (SCF/LPC) pallets created as a result of bundle reallocation under 705.8.11 or 705.8.13 by designating the protected pallet with an identifier of ''PSCF''.* * *

[Delete item d(7) in its entirety; renumber d(8) as d(7):]

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

e. At the end of the documentation, a summary report of the number of pieces mailed at each price for each mailing by postage payment method and the number of pieces in each mailing. This information must match the information reported on the postage statement(s). For Periodicals mailings, documentation also must provide a summary of the number of copies for each entry price.

* * * * *

[Revise 3.3 to read as follows:]

3.3 Price Level Column Headings

The actual name of the price level (or abbreviation) is used for column headings required under *3.2* and shown below:

a. Automation First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, and barcoded Periodicals:

Price	Abbreviation
5-Digit [First-Class Mail letters and flats, Periodicals letters and flats, and USPS Marketing Mail letters and flats]	5B
3-Digit [First-Class Mail letters and flats, Periodicals letters and flats, and USPS Marketing Mail letters and flats]	3B
Mixed [First-Class Mail letters and flats, Periodicals letters and flats, and USPS Marketing Mail letters and flats]	MB
Basic [In-County Periodicals]	BB
Firm [Outside-County Periodicals]	FB

b. Presorted First-Class Mail, barcoded and nonbarcoded Periodicals flats, nonbarcoded Periodicals letters, machinable, nonmachinable, and nonstandard USPS Marketing Mail and presorted Heavy Printed Matter:

Price	Abbreviation
Presorted	Presort

Price	Abbreviation
5-Digit	5D
3-Digit	3D
3-Digit [First-Class Mail machinable letters and USPS Marketing Mail machinable letters]	3B
Mixed [First-Class Mail machinable letters and USPS Marketing Mail machinable letters]	MB
Mixed	MXD
Basic [In-County Periodicals]	BS
Firm [Outside-County Periodicals]	FB

c. Carrier Route Periodicals, Enhanced Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail, and Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter:

Price	Abbreviation
Saturation [letters, flats, and nonstandard parcels]	WS
High Density [letters, flats, and nonstandard parcels]	HD
High Density Plus [USPS Marketing Mail only; letters and flats]	HDP
Basic [letters, flats, Periodicals nonstandard parcels, and Heavy Printed Matter parcels]	CR
Firm [Outside-County Periodicals]	FB

* * * * *

3.4 Sortation Level

The sortation level (or corresponding abbreviation) is used for the bundle, tray, sack, or pallet levels required under 3.2 and shown below:

[Revise the table in item 3.4 to read as follows:]

Sortation Level	Abbreviation
Carrier Route	CRD
5-Digit Carrier Routes	CR5
5-Digit Scheme Carrier Routes [sacks/flat trays and pallets (Periodicals and USPS Marketing Mail flats); sacks and pallets (nonstandard parcels)].	CR5S
5-Digit Scheme [barcoded and machinable letters]	5DGS
5-Digit Scheme [pallets, Periodicals flats and nonstandard parcels,	5DGS
USPS Marketing Mail flats, Bound Printed Matter flats]	
Merged 5–Digit [flat trays and pallets (Periodicals and USPS Marketing Mail flats); sacks and pallets (nonstandard parcels)]	M5D
Merged 5–Digit Scheme [flat trays and pallets (Periodicals and USPS Marketing Mail flats); sacks and pallets (nonstandard parcels)].	M5DS
5-Digit	5DG
3-Digit Carrier Routes	CR3
3-Digit Scheme [barcoded letters, barcoded and cobundled flats]	3DGS
Merged 3-Digit [flat trays (Periodicals flats); sacks (nonstandard parcels)]	M3D
3-Digit	3DG
SCF [flat trays and pallets (Periodicals flats and USPS Marketing Mail); sacks and pallets (Bound Printed Matter and non-standard parcels)].	SCF
SCF [pallets created from bundle reallocation]	PSCF
Mixed [working]	MXD

* * * * *

3.6 Detailed Entry Listing for Periodicals

* * * * *

3.6.3 Entry Abbreviations

Use the price name or the authorized entry abbreviation in the listings in 3.0 and 207.17.4.2:

[Revise the table in 3.6.3 to read as follows:]

Entry abbreviation	Rate equivalent
ICD	In-County, DDU.
IC	In-County, All Others.
DDU/S&DC	Outside-County, DDU.
SCF/LPC (letters/flats)	Outside-County, DSCF.
SCF/RPDC (parcels)	Outside-County, DSCF.
OC	Outside-County, All Others.

* * * * *

[Delete 3.7 in its entirety; renumber 3.8 as 3.7:]

* * * * *

4.0 Bundles

* * * * *

4.4 Exception to Bundle Preparation—Full Letter and Flat Trays and Small Flat Mailings

[Revise the second sentence of 4.4 to read as follows:]

* * * For example, mail in a full SCF tray need not be bundled if it would have all been prepared in SCF bundles to the same destination. * * *

* * * * *

4.5 Securing Bundles of Flats

Bundles must be able to withstand normal transit and handling without breakage and without injuring USPS employees, and are subject to the following requirements:

[Revise the last sentence of item (a) to read as follows:]

a. * * * Using twine/string, rubber bands, wire, or metal banding is not allowed.

[Delete item (c) in its entirety; renumber items (d) through (f) as (c) through (e) respectively:]

* * * * *

4.13 Labeling Bundles

* * * * *

[Delete item (g) in its entirety; renumber item (h) as (g):]

[Revise items (f) and (g) to read as follows:]

f. SCF presort level, pink Label A.

g. Mixed presort level, tan Label X.

* * * * *

4.14 Identifying Carrier Route Information

[Revise the last sentence of 4.14 to read as follows:]

* * * These standards apply to Carrier Route Periodicals and Enhanced Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail, Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter, and Carrier Route Bound Printed Matter mailings.

* * * * *

5.0 Letter Trays and Flat Trays

* * * * *

5.3 Letter Tray Preparation

Letter trays are prepared as follows:

* * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. If a mailing is prepared using an MLOCR/barcode sorter and is submitted with standardized documentation, then pieces do not have to be grouped by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix (or by 3-digit scheme, if applicable) in SCF trays, or by SCF in mixed trays.

* * * * *

5.5 Letter Tray Strapping Exception

[Revise the second sentence of 5.5 to read as follows:]

* * * If the processing and distribution manager gives a written waiver, strapping is not required for any mixed or sectional center facility (SCF) letter tray of First-Class Mail or for any letter tray that originates and destinates in the same sectional center facility/local processing center (SCF/LPC) service areas.

* * * * *

5.6 Use of Flat Trays

* * * * *

5.6.2 Preparation for Flats in Flat Trays

All flat-tray preparation is subject to these standards: * * *

[Revise items (h) and (i) to read as follows:]

h. Pieces prepared as automation flats under the tray-based preparation option in 235.8.0 do not have to be grouped by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix in SCF trays or by SCF in mixed trays if the mailing is prepared using an MLOCR/barcode sorter and standardized documentation is submitted.

i. If pieces in a Periodicals mailing remain after one or more full trays are prepared for a 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit, or SCF/LPC destination, an additional tray to the destination must be prepared if the remaining pieces reach the required volume. If the remaining volume is less than the required minimum, the pieces must be moved to the next tray level that meets the minimum volume.

* * * * *

5.8 Preparation for USPS Marketing Mail Flats in Letter Trays

USPS Marketing Mail flat-size pieces may be prepared in letter trays instead of sacks/flat trays only if the following standards are met:

* * * * *

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

e. All mail prepared under 245.9.0 must be bundled except for full carrier route trays.

* * * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. All other applicable standards in 245.8.0, 245.9.0, or 245.10.0 must be met, including required preparation sequence and use of sack/flat tray minimums as tray minimums.

* * * * *

5.11 Line 1 (Destination Line)

Line 1 (destination line) must meet these standards: * * *

[Revise the first sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

b. Information. Line 1 must contain only the information specified by standard, including the appropriate destination facility prefix (*e.g.,* ''SCF''). * * *

* * * * *

Exhibit 5.17 Required Barcoded Container Labels

[Revise Exhibit 5.17 to read as follows:]

Price or type	Processing category
USPS Marketing Mail Automation price	Letter-size.
Enhanced Carrier Route	Letter-size (barcoded labels not required for letter-size pieces with simplified addresses or paid at nonletter prices).
Automation	Flat-size.
Cobundled and cosacked under 705.10.0 through 705.13.0	Flat-size.
Automation, Presorted, and Enhanced Carrier Route in letter trays under 245.3.0.	Flat-size.

* * * * *

7.0 Optional Endorsement Lines (OELs)

7.1 OEL Use

* * * * *

Exhibit 7.1.1 OEL Formats

[Revise Exhibit 7.1.1 to read as follows:]

Sortation level	OEL example
Firm—BPM machinable parcels	* FIRM 12345.
Firm—Periodicals	* FIRM 12345.
Carrier Route—Periodicals basic	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * CAR–RT LOT**C–001.
	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * CR LOT 1234A**C–001
Carrier Route—Periodicals high density	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * CAR–RT WSH**C–001.
Carrier Route—Periodicals saturation	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * CAR–RT WSS**C–001.
ECR—USPS Marketing Mail basic	* ECRLOT**C–001.
	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * ECRLOT 1234A**C–001.
ECR—USPS Marketing Mail high density or high density plus	* ECRWSH**C–001.
ECR—USPS Marketing Mail saturation	* ECRWSS**C–001.
Carrier Route—Bound Printed Matter	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * CAR–RT SORT**C–001.
Carrier Route—Heavy Printed Matter	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * CAR–RT SORT**C–001.
5–Digit	* 5–DIGIT 12345.
5-Digit Scheme (Automation flats)	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * SCH 5–DIGIT 12345.
3-Digit	* 3–DIGIT 771.
3-Digit Scheme (Automation flats)	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * SCH 3–DIGIT 006.
SCF (3-digit ZIP Code prefix)	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *ALL FOR SCF 105.
SCF (5-digit ZIP Code)	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *ALL FOR SCF 90197.
Mixed	* MIXED WKG.

Additional required human-readable text for use with combined mailings of USPS Marketing Mail and Periodical flats:

5-Digit Scheme (and other sortation levels as appropriate)	* * * * * * * * * SCH 5–DIGIT 12345 MIX COMAIL.
Carrier Route basic	* * * * * * * SCH 5–DIGIT 12345 FSSC COMAIL.

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7.2 OEL Format

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7.2.5 ZIP Code Information

[Revise the first sentence of 7.2.5 to read as follows:]

Except for carrier route bundles, the OEL must include the ZIP Code information (5-digit ZIP Code or 3-digit ZIP Code prefix) determined by the sortation level and, when applicable, by the labeling list designated in Exhibit 7.2.5 for SCF or mixed sortation levels. * * *

Exhibit 7.2.5 OEL Labeling Lists

[Revise Exhibit 7.2.5 to read as follows:]

Processing category and presort type	SCF	Mixed
First-Class Mail:		
Letters, nonmachinable	L005	MXD WKG
Letters, machinable	L005	MXD WKG
Letters, automation	L005	MXD WKG
Flats, nonautomation	L016	MXD WKG
Flats, automation	L016	MXD WKG
Periodicals: [1]		
Letters, nonbarcoded (nonautomation)	L005	MXD WKG
Letters, barcoded (automation)	L005	MXD WKG
Flats, nonbarcoded	L016	MXD WKG
Flats, barcoded	L016	MXD WKG
Nonstandard parcels	L051	MXD WKG
USPS Marketing Mail: [1]		
Letters, nonmachinable	L005	MXD WKG
Letters, machinable	L005	MXD WKG
Letters, automation	L005	MXD WKG
Flats, nonautomation	L016	MXD WKG
Flats, automation	L016	MXD WKG
Bound Printed Matter [1]		
Flats, nonbarcoded	L016	MXD WKG
Flats, barcoded	L016	MXD WKG
Nonstandard parcels	L051	MXD WKG

[1] For automation-compatible flats, label according to L007 for optional 5-digit scheme preparation.

* * * * *

204 Barcode Standards

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3.0 Standards for Barcoded Tray Labels, Sack Labels, and Container Labels

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3.2 Specifications for Barcoded Tray and Sack Labels

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3.2.4 3-Digit Content Identifier Numbers

* * * * *

Exhibit 3.2.4 3-Digit Content Identifier Numbers

[Revise Exhibit 3.2.4 to read as follows:]

Class and mailing	CIN	Human-readable content line
PRIORITY MAIL EXPRESS OPEN AND DISTRIBUTE		
Dropship, all container levels	143	EXPRESS DROPSHIP
Priority Mail Open and Distribute		
Dropship, all container levels	165	PMOD
Letters, all classes	029	PMOD LTRS
Flats, all classes	030	PMOD FLTS
First-Class Mail		
FCM Letters—Automation:		
5-digit scheme trays	241	FCM LTR BC 5D SCHEME
5-digit trays	242	FCM LTR 5D BC
SCF trays	245	FCM LTR SCF BC
mixed trays	246	FCM LTR BC WKG
FCM Letters—Nonautomation Machinable:		
SCF trays	258	FCM LTR SCF MACH
mixed trays	260	FCM LTR MACH WKG
FCM Letters—Presorted Nonmachinable:		
5-digit trays	267	FCM LTR 5D MANUAL
3-digit trays	269	FCM LTR 3D MANUAL
SCF trays	270	FCM LTR SCF MANUAL
mixed trays	268	FCM LTR MANUAL WKG
FCM Letters—Single-Piece:		
single-piece trays	260	FCM SNGLP LTRS WKG
FCM Flats—Automation:		
5-digit scheme trays	271	FCM FLTS 5D SCH BC
5-digit trays	272	FCM FLTS 5D BC
3-digit trays	273	FCM FLTS 3D BC
SCF trays	274	FCM FLTS SCF BC
mixed trays	275	FCM FLTS BC WKG
FCM Flats—Presorted:		
5-digit trays	278	FCM FLTS 5D NON BC
3-digit trays	279	FCM FLTS 3D NON BC
SCF trays	280	FCM FLTS SCF NON BC
mixed trays	282	FCM FLTS NON BC WKG
FCM Flats—Single-Piece:		
single-piece trays	282	FCM SNGLP FLTS WKG
Periodicals (PER)		
PER Letters—Carrier Route:		
saturation price trays	369	PER LTRS WSS [1]
high density price trays	370	PER LTRS WSH [1]
basic price trays	366	PER LTRS CR [1]
5-digit carrier routes trays	367	PER LTRS CR–RTS
3-digit carrier routes trays	368	PER LTRS 3D CR–RTS
PER Letters—Barcoded (Automation):		
5-digit scheme trays	341	PER LTRS BC 5D SCHEME
5-digit trays	342	PER LTRS 5D BC
3-digit scheme trays	343	PER LTRS BC SCHEME [2]
3-digit trays	344	PER LTRS 3D BC
SCF trays	345	PER LTRS SCF BC
mixed trays	346	PER LTRS BC WKG
PER Letters—Nonbarcoded (Nonautomation):		
5-digit trays	350	PER LTRS 5D NON BC
3-digit trays	353	PER LTRS 3D NON BC
SCF trays	356	PER LTRS SCF NON BC
mixed trays	359	PER LTRS NON BC WKG
PER Flats—Carrier Route:		
car. rt. sacks or flat trays—saturation	387	PER FLTS WSS [1]
car. rt. sacks or flat trays—high density	388	PER FLTS WSH [1]
car. rt. sacks or flat trays—basic	385	PER FLTS CR [1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks or flat trays	386	PER FLTS 5D CR–RTS
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks or flat trays	371	PER FLTS CR–RTS SCH
3-digit carrier routes flat trays	351	PER FLTS 3D CR–RTS
PER Flats—Barcoded:		

Class and mailing	CIN	Human-readable content line
5-digit flat trays	372	PER FLTS 5D BC
5-digit scheme flat trays	372	PER FLTS 5D SCH BC
3-digit flat trays	373	PER FLTS 3D BC
SCF flat trays	377	PER FLTS SCF BC
mixed flat trays	375	PER FLTS BC WKG
PER Flats—Nonbarcoded:		
5-digit scheme flat trays	378	PER FLT 5D SCH NON BC
5-digit flat trays	378	PER FLTS 5D NON BC
3-digit flat trays	379	PER FLTS 3D NON BC
SCF flat trays	384	PER FLTS SCF NON BC
mixed flat trays	382	PER FLTS NON BC WKG
PER Flats—Cotrayed Barcoded and Nonbarcoded:		
5-digit scheme flat trays	321	PER FLT 5D SCH BC/NBC
5-digit flat trays	321	PER FLTS 5D BC/NBC
3-digit flat trays	322	PER FLTS 3D BC/NBC
SCF flat trays	329	PER FLTS SCF BC/NBC
mixed flat trays	332	PER FLTS BC/NBC WKG
PER Flats—Merged Carrier Route, Barcoded, and Nonbarcoded:		
merged 5-digit sacks or flat trays	339	PER FLTS CR/5D
merged 5-digit scheme sacks or flat trays	349	PER FLTS CR/5D SCH
merged 3-digit flat trays	352	PER FLTS CR/5D/3D
PER Nonstandard Parcels—Merged Carrier Route and Presorted:		
merged 5-digit sacks	340	PER NONSTD CR/5D
merged 3-digit sacks	354	PER NONSTD CR/5D/3D
merged 5-digit scheme sacks	365	PER NONSTD CR/5D SCH
PER Nonstandard Parcels—Carrier Route:		
saturation price sacks	397	PER NONSTD WSS [1]
high density price sacks	398	PER NONSTD WSH [1]
basic price sacks	395	PER NONSTD CR [1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks	396	PER NONSTD 5D CR–RTS
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks	399	PER NONSTD CR–RTS SCH
3-digit carrier routes sacks	355	PER NONSTD 3D CR–RTS
PER Nonstandard Parcels—Presorted:		
5-digit sacks	389	PER NONSTD 5D
3-digit sacks	390	PER NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks or trays	394	PER NONSTD SCF
mixed sacks or trays	392	PER NONSTD WKG
Periodicals (News)		
NEWS Letters—Carrier Route:		
saturation price trays	469	NEWS LTRS WSS [1]
high density price trays	470	NEWS LTRS WSH [1]
basic price trays	466	NEWS LTRS CR [1]
5-digit carrier routes trays	467	NEWS LTRS CR–RTS
3-digit carrier routes trays	468	NEWS LTRS 3D CR–RTS
NEWS Letters—Barcoded (Automation):		
5-digit scheme trays	441	NEWS LTR BC 5D SCHEME
5-digit trays	442	NEWS LTRS 5D BC
3-digit scheme trays	443	NEWS LTRS BC SCHEME [2]
3-digit trays	444	NEWS LTRS 3D BC
SCF trays	445	NEWS LTRS SCF BC
mixed trays	446	NEWS LTRS BC WKG
NEWS Letters—Nonbarcoded (Nonautomation):		
5-digit trays	450	NEWS LTRS 5D NON BC
3-digit trays	453	NEWS LTRS 3D NON BC
SCF trays	456	NEWS LTRS SCF NON BC
mixed trays	459	NEWS LTRS NON BC WKG
NEWS Flats—Carrier Route:		
car. rt. sacks or flat trays—saturation	487	NEWS FLTS WSS [1]
car. rt. sacks or flat trays—high density	488	NEWS FLTS WSH [1]
car. rt. sacks or flat trays—basic	485	NEWS FLTS CR [1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks or flat trays	486	NEWS FLTS 5D CR–RTS
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks or flat trays	471	NEWS FLTS CR–RTS SCH
3-digit carrier routes flat trays	451	NEWS FLTS 3D CR–RTS
NEWS Flats—Barcoded:		
5-digit flat trays	472	NEWS FLTS 5D BC
5-digit scheme flat trays	472	NEWS FLTS 5D SCH BC
3-digit flat trays	473	NEWS FLTS 3D BC
SCF flat trays	477	NEWS FLTS SCF BC
mixed flat trays	475	NEWS FLTS BC WKG
NEWS Flats—Nonbarcoded:		
5-digit scheme flat trays	478	NEWS FLT 5D SCH NON BC
5-digit flat trays	478	NEWS FLTS 5D NON BC

Class and mailing	CIN	Human-readable content line
3-digit flat trays	479	NEWS FLTS 3D NON BC
SCF flat trays	484	NEWS FLTS SCF NON BC
mixed flat trays	482	NEWS FLTS NON BC WKG
NEWS Flats—Cotrayed Barcoded and Nonbarcoded:		
5-digit scheme flat trays	421	NEWS FLT 5D SCH BC/NBC
5-digit flat trays	421	NEWS FLTS 5D BC/NBC
3-digit flat trays	422	NEWS FLTS 3D BC/NBC
SCF and origin/entry SCF flat trays	429	NEWS FLTS SCF BC/NBC
mixed flat trays	432	NEWS FLTS BC/NBC WKG
NEWS Flats—Merged Carrier Route, Barcoded, and Nonbarcoded:		
merged 5-digit	439	NEWS FLTS CR/5D
merged 5-digit scheme	449	NEWS FLTS CR/5D SCH
merged 3-digit flat trays	452	NEWS FLTS CR/5D/3D
NEWS Nonstandard Parcels—Merged Carrier Route and Presorted:		
merged 5-digit	440	NEWS NONSTD CR/5D
merged 5-digit scheme	465	NEWS NONSTD CR/5D SCH
merged 3-digit sacks	454	NEWS NONSTD CR/5D/3D
NEWS Nonstandard Parcels—Carrier Route:		
saturation price sacks	497	NEWS NONSTD WSS [1]
high density price sacks	498	NEWS NONSTD WSH [1]
basic price sacks	495	NEWS NONSTD CR [1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks	496	NEWS NONSTD 5D CR–RTS
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks	499	NEWS NONSTD CR–RTS SCH
3-digit carrier routes sacks	455	NEWS NONSTD 3D CR–RTS
NEWS Nonstandard Parcels—Presorted:		
5-digit sacks	489	NEWS NONSTD 5D
3-digit sacks	490	NEWS NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks or trays	494	NEWS NONSTD SCF
mixed sacks or trays	492	NEWS NONSTD WKG
USPS MARKETING MAIL		
ECR Letters—Barcoded:		
saturation price (including Plus One)	557	MKT LTR BC WSS [1]
high density or high density plus price (including Plus One)	557	MKT LTR BC WSH [1]
5-digit carrier routes trays	564	MKT LTR 5D CR–RT BC
3-digit carrier routes trays	565	MKT LTR 3D CR–RT BC
ECR Letters—Nonautomation (Machinable):		
saturation price	569	MKT LTR MACH WSS [1]
high density or high density plus price	569	MKT LTR MACH WSH [1]
basic price	569	MKT LTR MACH LOT [1]
5-digit carrier routes trays	567	MKT LTR 5D CR–RT MACH
3-digit carrier routes trays	568	MKT LTR 3D CR–RT MACH
ECR Letters—Nonautomation (Nonmachinable):		
saturation price	608	MKT LTR MAN WSS[1]
high density or high density plus price	608	MKT LTR MAN WSH[1]
basic price	608	MKT LTR MAN LOT[1]
5-digit carrier routes trays	609	MKT LTR 5D CR–RT MAN
3-digit carrier routes trays	611	MKT LTR 3D CR–RT MAN
MKT Letters—Automation:		
5-digit scheme trays	541	MKT LTR BC 5D SCHEME
5-digit trays	542	MKT LTR 5D BC
SCF trays	545	MKT LTR SCF BC
mixed trays	546	MKT LTR BC WKG
MKT Letters—Nonautomation Machinable:		
SCF trays	558	MKT LTR SCF MACH
mixed trays	560	MKT LTR MACH WKG
MKT Letters—Presorted Nonmachinable:		
5-digit trays	604	MKT LTR 5D MANUAL
3-digit trays	606	MKT LTR 3D MANUAL
SCF trays	607	MKT LTR SCF MANUAL
mixed trays	605	MKT LTR MANUAL WKG
MKT Letters—Residual Pieces Subject to FCM Single-Piece Prices:		
residual trays	560	MKT LTRS WKG
Enhanced Carrier Route Flats—Nonautomation:		
saturation price sacks or flat trays	587	MKT FLTS ECRWSS[1]
high density or high density plus price sacks or flat trays	588	MKT FLTS ECRWSH[1]
basic price sacks or flat trays	589	MKT FLTS ECRLOT[1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks or flat trays	586	MKT FLTS CR–RTS
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks or flat trays	529	MKT FLTS CR–RTS SCH
MKT Flats—Cotrayed Automation and Nonautomation:		
5-digit scheme flat trays	521	MKT FLT 5D SCH BC/NBC
5-digit flat trays	521	MKT FLTS 5D BC/NBC

Class and mailing	CIN	Human-readable content line
3-digit and origin/entry 3-digit flat trays	522	MKT FLTS 3D BC/NBC
SCF flat trays	531	MKT FLTS SCF BC/NBC
mixed flat trays	532	MKT FLTS BC/NBC WKG
MKT Flats—Merged Carrier Route, Automation, and Presorted:		
merged 5-digit	539	MKT FLTS CR/5D
merged 5-digit scheme	549	MKT FLTS CR/5D SCH
MKT Flats—Automation:		
5-digit flat trays	572	MKT FLTS 5D BC
5-digit scheme flat trays	572	MKT FLTS 5D SCH BC
3-digit flat trays	573	MKT FLTS 3D BC
SCF flat trays	574	MKT FLTS SCF BC
mixed flat trays	575	MKT FLTS BC WKG
MKT Flats—Nonautomation:		
5-digit scheme flat trays	578	MKT FLT 5D SCH NON BC
5-digit flat trays	578	MKT FLTS 5D NON BC
3-digit flat trays	579	MKT FLTS 3D NON BC
SCF flat trays	580	MKT FLTS SCF NON BC
mixed flat trays	582	MKT FLTS NON BC WKG
MKT Flats—Residual Pieces Subject to FCM Single-Piece Prices:		
residual flat trays	582	MKT FLTS WKG
Customized MarketMail (CMM):		
CMM letter trays	206	DEL LTR MKT CMM MAN
CMM flat trays	207	DEL FLTS MKT CMM MAN
CMM sacks	205	DEL MKT CMM MAN
ECR Marketing Parcels:		
saturation price sacks	599	MKT MKTG WSS[1]
high density price sacks	600	MKT MKTG WSH[1]
basic price sacks	601	MKT MKTG LOT[1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks	598	MKT MKTG CR–RTS
MKT Marketing Parcels (Nonstandard) and Nonprofit Nonstandard-Priced Parcels:		
5-digit scheme sacks	590	MKT NONSTD 5D SCH
5-digit sacks	590	MKT NONSTD 5D
SCF sacks	596	MKT NONSTD SCF
mixed sacks	594	MKT NONSTD WKG
MKT Marketing Parcels (Machinable) and Nonprofit Machinable Priced Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	670	MKT MACH 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	670	MKT MACH 5D SCH
mixed sacks	674	MKT MACH WKG
MKT Machinable and Nonstandard Parcels—Presorted:		
5-digit sacks	603	MKT MACH–NONSTD 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	603	MKT MACH–NONSTD 5D SCH
HEAVY PRINTED MATTER		
Carrier Route HPM—Nonstandard Parcels:		
carrier route sacks	134	HPM NONSTD CR [1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks	135	HPM NONSTD CR–RTS
5-digit scheme car. rt. sacks	136	HPM NONSTD CR–RTS SCH
Presorted HPM—Nonstandard Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	239	HPM NONSTD 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	249	HPM NONSTD 5D SCH
3-digit sacks	251	HPM NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks	252	HPM NONSTD SCF
mixed sacks	254	HPM NONSTD WKG
Carrier Route HPM—Machinable Parcels:		
carrier route sacks	086	HPM MACH CR [1]
Presorted HPM—Machinable Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	087	HPM MACH 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	088	HPM MACH 5D SCH
SCF sacks	257	HPM MACH SCF
mixed sacks	089	HPM MACH WKG
Package Services		
Carrier Route BPM—Flats:		
carrier route sacks	657	PSVC FLTS CR[1]
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks	659	PSVC FLTS CR–RTS SCH
5-digit carrier routes sacks	658	PSVC FLTS CR–RTS
Presorted BPM—Flats:		
5-digit scheme sacks	649	PSVC FLTS 5D SCH NON BC
5-digit sacks	649	PSVC FLTS 5D NON BC
3-digit sacks	650	PSVC FLTS 3D NON BC

Class and mailing	CIN	Human-readable content line
SCF sacks	654	PSVC FLTS SCF NON BC
mixed sacks	653	PSVC FLTS NON BC WKG
Presorted BPM—Automation Flats:		
5-digit sacks	635	PSVC FLTS 5D BC
5-digit scheme sacks	635	PSVC FLTS 5D SCH BC
3-digit sacks	636	PSVC FLTS 3D BC
SCF sacks	637	PSVC FLTS SCF BC
mixed sacks	639	PSVC FLTS BC WKG
BPM Flats—Cosacked Barcoded and Presorted:		
5-digit scheme sacks	648	PSVC FLTS 5D SCH BC/NBC
5-digit sacks	648	PSVC FLTS 5D BC/NBC
3-digit sacks	661	PSVC FLTS 3D BC/NBC
SCF sacks	667	PSVC FLTS SCF BC/NBC
mixed sacks	669	PSVC FLTS BC/NBC WKG
Carrier Route BPM—Nonstandard Parcels:		
carrier route sacks	697	PSVC NONSTD CR[1]
5-digit carrier routes sacks	698	PSVC NONSTD CR–RTS
5-digit scheme car. rt. sacks	698	PSVC NONSTD CR–RTS SCH
Presorted BPM—Nonstandard Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	690	PSVC NONSTD 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	690	PSVC NONSTD 5D SCH
3-digit sacks	691	PSVC NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks	696	PSVC NONSTD SCF
mixed sacks	694	PSVC NONSTD WKG
Carrier Route BPM—Machinable Parcels:		
carrier route sacks	687	PSVC MACH CR[1]
Presorted BPM—Machinable Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	680	PSVC MACH 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	680	PSVC MACH 5D SCH
mixed sacks	684	PSVC MACH WKG
Parcel Select		
Parcel Select Machinable Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	680	PSVC MACH 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	680	PSVC MACH 5D SCH
SCF sacks	686	PSVC MACH SCF
mixed sacks	684	PSVC MACH WKG
Parcel Select DSCF and DDU Prices:		
5-digit sacks	688	PSVC PARCELS 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	688	PSVC PARCELS 5D SCH
Parcel Select—Nonstandard Parcels:		
3-digit sacks	691	PSVC NONSTD 3D
Combined Package Services and Parcel Select Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	688	PSVC PARCELS 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	688	PSVC PARCELS 5D SCH
Combined Package Services and USPS Marketing Machinable Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	660	MKT/PSVC MACH 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	660	MKT/PSVC MACH 5D SCH
mixed sacks	664	MKT/PSVC MACH WKG
Combined Package Services, Parcel Select, and USPS Marketing—All Parcels:		
5-digit sacks	603	MKT/PSVC PARCELS 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	603	MKT/PSVC PARCELS 5D SCH
Combined Package Services, Parcel Select, and USPS Marketing—Nonstandard Parcels 2 up to 6 oz (APPS-machinable):		
3-digit sacks	501	MKT/PSVC 3D
SCF sacks	502	MKT/PSVC SCF
Mixed sacks	506	MKT/PSVC WKG
Combined PSVC & MKT— Nonstandard Parcels Cylindrical Tubes and Rolls:		
3-digit sacks	591	MKT/PSVC NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks	592	MKT/PSVC NONSTD SCF
Mixed sacks	594	MKT/PSVC NONSTD WKG

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3.3 Specific Standards for Intelligent Mail Tray Labels

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3.3.3 Intelligent Mail Tray Label Format

The core data elements for the Intelligent Mail tray label are as follows:

* * *

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

e. Destination ZIP Code (the ZIP Code of the trays' or sacks' final destination, or blank if a MXD WKG tray or sack).

* * * * *

3.3.4 Barcode Composition

The barcode composition is dependent on the Mailer ID assigned by the USPS. Upon request by the mailer, the USPS assigns a 6-digit or 9-digit Mailer ID based on the demonstrated mail volume of the mailer. Intelligent Mail tray barcodes contain the following elements:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. Destination ZIP Code (use 00000 for MXD WKG).

* * * * *

207 Periodicals

* * * * *

2.0 Price Application and Computation

2.1 Price Application

2.1.1 Price Elements

[Revise 2.1.1 to read as follows:]

Postage for Periodicals mail includes a pound price charge and a piece price charge for Outside-County mail, and any discounts for which the mail qualifies under the corresponding standards.

2.1.2 Applying Outside-County Piece Prices

The per piece charge applies to each copy and each firm bundle in the mailing. Outside-County piece prices are based on the shape of the mailpiece (letter, flat, or parcel); the characteristics of the mailpiece (machinable or nonmachinable, see 18.4aa and 18.4ab); the application of a barcode; and the bundle presort level. Firm bundles and carrier route pieces pay separate piece prices that do not vary based on these criteria. For pieces properly prepared loose in trays, the price is based on the tray presort level. Apply piece prices for Outside-County mail as follows:

* * * * *

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. *Nonmachinable flats.* Apply the ''Nonmachinable Flats-Barcoded/Nonbarcoded'' prices to pieces that meet the standards for nonmachinable flats in 26.0, whether or not a barcode is used.

Exception: Barcoded pieces prepared under 26.0 and placed in 5-digit bundles pay the ''Machinable Flats-Barcoded'' 5-digit price. Nonmachinable barcoded flats claiming the ''Machinable Flats-Barcoded'' 5-digit price must meet the deflection standards in 201.4.0.

* * * * *

[Revise title and text of 2.1.8 to read as follows:]

2.1.8 SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

Periodicals flat-shaped pieces are eligible for the SCF Pallet discount when palletized as follows:

a. 5-digit eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.2f, 705.8.10.2g, and 705.8.10.2h and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

b. 3-digit eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.2g and 705.8.10.2h and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

c. Basic Carrier Route eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.2f, 705.8.10.2g, and 705.8.10.2h and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

d. High Density eligible pieces of 125 or more for each carrier route that are palletized under 705.8.10.2f, 705.8.10.2g, and 705.8.10.2h and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

e. Saturation eligible pieces to at least 90 percent or more of the total number of active residential addresses, or 75 percent or more of the total number of active possible delivery addresses, on each carrier route that are palletized under 705.8.10.2f, 705.8.10.2g, and 705.8.10.2h and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

f. Firm bundles that are palletized under 705.8.10.2f, 705.8.10.2g, and 705.8.10.2h and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

[Revise title and text of 2.1.9 to read as follows:]

2.1.9 Delivery Sort Container Discount Eligibility

The following Periodicals flat-shaped pieces in bundles are eligible for the Delivery Sort Container discount when meeting the basic standards under 13.2.1b and palletized under 705.8.0, 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0 on a 5-digit scheme carrier routes, 5-digit (scheme) merged, 5-digit carrier route(s), or 5-digit merged pallet entered at an Origin, DSCF, or DDU entry or in a carrier route sack or flat tray under 207.23.4.1 and entered at the DDU:

a. Carrier Route;

b. High Density; and

c. Saturation; and

d. Firm.

* * * * *

2.2 Computing Postage

* * * * *

[Delete 2.2.7 in its entirety; renumber 2.2.8 as 2.27:]

[Revise renumbered 2.2.7 to read as follows:]

2.2.7 Total Postage

Outside-County and In-County total postage is the sum of per pound and per piece charges, less any discounts, plus any Ride-Along charges, rounded to the nearest whole cent.

* * * * *

3.0 Physical Characteristics and Content Eligibility

* * * * *

3.3.3 Enclosures at First-Class Mail or USPS Marketing Mail Prices

Material paid at First-Class Mail or USPS Marketing Mail prices may be enclosed in a Periodicals mailpiece subject to these conditions:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. The total weight of all enclosed USPS Marketing Mail material must not exceed 20 ounces.

* * * * *

11.0 Basic Eligibility

11.1 Outside-County Prices

11.1.1 General

Outside-County prices apply to copies of an authorized Periodicals publication that a publisher or news agent mails and that are not eligible for In-County prices under 11.3. Outside-County prices consist of: ***

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. An entry-level charge for the weight of the advertising portion of the publication; and

c. An entry-level charge for the weight of the nonadvertising portion.

[Delete item (d) in its entirety:]

* * * * *

11.1.3 Preferred Price Discount

[Revise the text of 11.1.3 to read as follows:]

Publications qualifying as Nonprofit or Classroom Periodicals receive a 5% discount off the total Outside-County piece/pound postage, excluding the postage for advertising pounds.

* * * * *

12.0 Nonbarcoded (Presorted) Eligibility

* * * * *

12.2 Prices—Outside-County

[Revise the text of 12.2 to read as follows:]

Outside-County nonbarcoded (Presorted) piece prices are based on shape, machinability, barcoding, and presort level. The presort level of the piece is based primarily on the bundle level of the piece, except the presort level of pieces loose in trays, which is based on the tray level.

* * * * *

14.0 Barcoded (Automation) Eligibility

* * * * *

14.2 Eligibility Standards for Full-Service Automation Periodicals

All pieces entered under the full-service automation option must: ***

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. Be scheduled for an appointment through the Facility Access and Shipment Tracking (FAST) system when deposited as a DSCF drop shipment.

* * * * *

14.3 Prices—Outside-County

[*Revise the text of 14.3 to read as follows:*]

Outside-County barcoded (automation) piece prices are based on mailpiece shape (letter, flat, or parcel), machinability, barcoding, and presort level. The presort level of the piece is based on the bundle level of the piece, except the presort level of pieces loose in trays is based on the tray level.

* * * * *

16.0 Postage Payment

* * * * *

16.4 Payment Method

[*Delete the last sentence of 16.4 in its entirety:*]

* * * * *

17.0 Documentation

* * * * *

17.4 Detailed Entry Listing for Periodicals

17.4.1 Basic Standards

[*Revise the first sentence of 17.4.1 to read as follows:*]

The publisher must be able to present documentation that supports the number of copies of each edition of an issue, by entry level, at DDU/S&DC, DSCF/LPC (letters/flats), DSCF/RPDC (parcels), None, and In-County prices. * * *

* * * * *

17.4.2 Format

Using one of the following formats, report the number of copies mailed to each 3-digit ZIP Code area at entry prices:

* * * * *

[*Revise the first sentence of 17.4.2(b) to read as follows:*]

b. Report copies by zone (In-County DDU/S&DC, In-County others, Outside-County DDU/S&DC, Outside-County DSCF/LPC [letters/flats], Outside-County DSCF/RPDC [parcels], and Outside-County None) and by 3-digit ZIP Code, in ascending numeric order, for each entry level. * * *

* * * * *

17.4.3 Entry Abbreviations

Use the price name or the authorized entry abbreviation in the listings in 17.3 and 17.4.2.

[*Revise the chart in 17.4.3 to read as follows:*]

Entry abbreviation	Price equivalent
ICD	In-County, DDU.
IC	In-County, None.
DDU/S&DC	Outside-County, DDU.
SCF/LPC (letters.flats)	Outside-County, DSCF.
SCF/RPDC (parcels)	Outside-County, DSCF.
OC	Outside-County, None.

* * * * *

17.5 Additional Standards for Documentation

* * * * *

[*Delete 17.5.2 in its entirety:*]

* * * * *

18.0 General Mail Preparation

* * * * *

18.3 Presort Terms

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows: * * *

[*Delete items (r) and (s) in their entirety; renumber item (t) as (r):*]

[*Revise renumbered item (r) to read as follows:*]

r. *Mixed:* the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one SCF.

18.4 Mail-Preparation Terms

For purposes of preparing mail:

* * * * *

[*Revise item (e) to read as follows:*]

e. A *full* sack (parcels only) is defined in the standards for the class claimed.

* * * * *

aa. *Machinable flats* are:

[*Revise the first sentence of item aa(1) to read as follows:*]

1. Flat-size pieces meeting the standards in 201.6.0 that are sorted into 5-digit, 3-digit, SCF, and mixed bundles. * * *

* * * * *

20.0 Sacks and Trays

20.1 Basic Standards

20.1.1 General

[*Revise 20.1.1 to read as follows:*]

The following apply:

a. Mailings must be prepared in letter trays (letters), flat trays (flats) under 22.7 and 25.5, or sacks (see b.).

b. Sacks must be prepared for the following:

1. Carrier route;

2. 5-digit scheme cr-rt and 5-digit cr-rt flats;

3. Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier-route flats;

4. Nonpalletized carrier-route flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin);

5. Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin);

6. Nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); and

7. All periodicals parcels.

c. DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container.

d. Palletized mail is subject to 705.8.0.

e. See 203.5.0 and 203.6.0 for tray and sack standards.

* * * * *

[*Delete 20.1.4 in its entirety:*]

* * * * *

22.0 Preparing Nonbarcoded (Presorted) Periodicals

* * * * *

22.2 Bundle Preparation

[*Revise the fifth sentence of the introductory paragraph to read as follows:*]

* * * Smaller volumes are not permitted, except in mixed bundles and under 22.4. * * *

[*Revise item (f) to read as follows:*]

f. SCF (required); six-piece minimum; pink Label A or OEL.

[Delete item (g) in its entirety; renumber item (h) as (g):]

[*Revise renumbered item (g) to read as follows:*]

g. Mixed (required); no minimum; Tan Label X or OEL.

* * * * *

22.4 Bundles With Less Than 6 Pieces

[*Revise the second sentence of 22.4 to read as follows:*]

* * * Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). * * *

* * * * *

22.5 Letter Tray Preparation—Letter-Size Pieces

Preparation sequence, tray size, and labeling: * * *

[*Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:*]

c. *SCF:* required at 24 pieces, optional with one six-piece bundle minimum.

1. *Line 1:* use L005, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''LTRS SCF NON BC.''

d. *Mixed:* required (no minimum).

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''LTRS NON BC WKG.''

* * * * *

22.6 Sack Preparation

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. SCF/LPC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum (no minimum for origin entry SCF).

1. *Line 1:* use L016, Column B for flats, L051, Column B for parcels.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS'' or ''NONSTD'' as applicable; followed by ''SCF''; followed by ''NON BC'' for flats.

[Delete items (d) through (f) in their entirety; renumber item (g) as (d):]

[Revise renumbered item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Mixed, required (no minimum).

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''NONSTD'' as applicable; followed by ''WKG''.

* * * * *

22.7 Tray Preparation—Flat-Size Nonbarcoded Pieces

[Revise the introductory text of 22.7 to read as follows:]

Mailers must place machinable and nonmachinable (26.0) flat-sized pieces in flat trays (203.5.6) instead of sacks, unless prepared as the following: Direct carrier route; 5-digit scheme carrier route; 5-digit carrier route (23.4.1, 705.9.0 and 705.10.0); Nonpalletized residual 5-digit entered at a DDU along with carrier-route flats; Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF (origin); or nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF entered at the DSCF (origin). Bundling in flat trays is optional when no mail in that tray would have been more finely sorted, if bundled. Bundles must be trayed and labeled separately from loose flats prepared in flat trays. Tray preparation, sequence, and labeling: * * *

[Revise item (d) to read as follows:]

d. SCF/LPC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum, (origin entry SCF, required, no minimum).

1. *Line 1:* use L016, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''SCF NON BC''.

[Delete items (e) through (g) in their entirety; renumber item and (h) as (e):]

[Revise renumbered (e) to read as follows:]

e. Mixed (required), no minimum, labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''NON BC WKG''.

* * * * *

23.0 Preparing Carrier-Route Periodicals

* * * * *

23.4 Preparation—Flat-Size Pieces and Nonstandard Parcels

* * * * *

23.4.2 Exception to Flat Traying and Sacking

[Revise the introductory text of 23.4.2 to read as follows:]

Sacking or traying is not required for carrier route bundles entered at a DDU when the mailer unloads bundles under 29.4.5. Mailers must prepare unsacked, untrayed bundles as follows: * * *

* * * * *

23.6 Bundles With Less Than 6 Pieces

[Revise the second sentence of 23.6 to read as follows:]

* * * Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). * * *

* * * * *

24.0 Preparing Letter-Size Barcoded (Automation) Periodicals

* * * * *

24.2 Additional Standards

24.2.1 Preparing Barcoded Price Letters

Tray size, preparation sequence, and Line 1 labeling: * * *

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

c. *SCF:* required (150-piece minimum); overflow allowed; for Line 1, use L005, Column B.

d. *Mixed:* required (no minimum); for Line 1, use ''MXD WKG''.

24.2.2 Tray Line 2

Line 2: ''PER LTRS'' or ''NEWS LTRS'' (except ''NEWS LTR'' for 5-digit scheme trays), as applicable, and: * * *

[Revise items (e) and (f) to read as follows:]

e. *SCF:* ''SCF BC.''

f. *Mixed:* ''BC WKG.''

* * * * *

25.0 Preparing Flat-Size Barcoded (Automation) Periodicals

25.1 Basic Standards

* * * * *

25.1.7 Exception—Barcoded and Nonbarcoded Flats on Pallets

[Revise the last sentence of item (c) to read as follows:]

c. * * * The nonbarcoded-price pieces that cannot be placed on SCF or finer pallets may be prepared as flats in flat trays and paid for at nonbarcoded prices.

25.1.8 Bundles With Less Than 6 Pieces

[Revise the second sentence of 25.1.8 to read as follows:]

* * * Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the applicable mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). * * *

* * * * *

25.3 Bundling and Labeling

Preparation sequence, bundle size, and labeling: * * *

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

e. SCF (required); six-piece minimum (fewer permitted under 25.1.8); pink Label A or OEL.

[Delete item (f) in its entirety; renumber item (g) as (f)]

[Revise renumbered item (f) to read as follows:]

f. Mixed (required); no minimum; tan Label X or OEL.

* * * * *

25.4 Sacking and Labeling

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. SCF/LPC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces; fewer pieces not permitted, (no minimum for origin entry SCF); labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use L016, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* use ''PER FLTS SCF BC'' or ''NEWS FLTS SCF BC,'' as applicable.

[Delete items (d) through (f) in their entirety; renumber item (g) as (d):]

[Revise renumbered item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Mixed (required), no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

2. *Line 2:* ''PER FLTS BC WKG'' or ''NEWS FLTS BC WKG'', as applicable.

25.5 Tray Preparation—Flat-Size Barcoded Pieces

[Delete the fifth sentence of the introductory text in its entirety:]

* * * * *

[Revise item (d) to read as follows:]

d. *SCF/LPC* (required), 72-piece minimum, optional at 24 pieces, fewer pieces not permitted, (origin entry SCF, required, no minimum); labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L016, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''SCF BC''.

[Delete items (e) through (g) in their entirety; renumber item (h) as (e):]

[Revise renumbered item (e) to read as follows:]

e. *Mixed* (required), no minimum, labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''BC WKG''.

26.0 Physical Criteria for Nonmachinable Flat-Size Periodicals

* * * * *

26.2 Weight and Size

[Revise the first sentence of 26.2 to read as follows:]

The maximum weight for each piece is 4.4 pounds. * * *

* * * * *

27.0 Combining Multiple Editions or Publications

* * * * *

27.5 Documentation

Each mailing must be accompanied by documentation meeting the standards in 17.0, as well as any additional mailing information requested by the USPS to support the postage claimed (such as advertising percentage and weight per copy). The following additional standards apply:

[Revise the first sentence of item (a) to read as follows:]

a. Presort documentation required under 203.3.0 must show the total number of addressed pieces and total number of copies for each publication and each edition in the combined mailing claimed at the carrier route, 5-digit, 3-digit/SCF, and mixed prices. * * *

* * * * *

27.7 Postage Statements

Mailers must prepare postage statements for a combined mailing as follows: * * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. For a combined mailing prepared under 27.1a mailers must prepare a separate postage statement that claims all per piece and per pound charges (if apportioned) for each publication or edition. The mailer must annotate on, or attach to, each postage statement, the title and issue date of each publication or edition and indicate that the pieces are part of a combined mailing under 27.1a.

* * * * *

29.0 Destination Entry

29.1 Basic Standards

* * * * *

[Revise item 29.1(c) to read as follows:]

c. The advertising and nonadvertising portions may be eligible for DSCF or DDU pound prices based on the entry facility and the address on the piece.

[Delete 29.2 in its entirety; renumber 29.3 and 29.4 as 29.2 and 29.3 respectively:]

[Renumbered 29.2]

29.2 Destination Sectional Center Facility/Local Processing Center

* * * * *

29.2.2 Price Eligibility

The following apply: * * *

[Delete item (b) in its entirety; renumber item (c) as (b):]

* * * * *

[Renumbered 29.3]

29.3 Destination Delivery Unit/Sorting and Delivery Center

* * * * *

29.3.2 Price Eligibility

Determine price eligibility as follows: * * *

[Delete item (c) in its entirety; renumber item (d) as (c):]

* * * * *

230 Commercial Mail First-Class Mail

233 Prices and Eligibility

* * * * *

4.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Nonautomation First-Class Mail

* * * * *

4.3 Price Application—Nonautomation Machinable—Letters

[Revise the text of 4.3 to read as follows:]

Nonautomation machinable letters are subject to 3-digit and mixed prices only (including round-trip mailings with one optical disc).

[Revise the heading and text of 4.3.1 to read as follows:]

4.3.1 3-Digit Price

The 3-digit price applies to qualifying letter-size machinable pieces (see 201.1.0) in quantities of 150 or more pieces prepared in SCF trays for a single SCF, and to pieces placed in mixed trays in lieu of overflow SCF trays.

[Revise the heading of 4.3.2 to read as follows:]

4.3.2 3-Digit First Class Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF-Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the first paragraph of 4.3.2 to read as follows:]

The SCF-pallet discount applies to 3-digit/SCF eligible First Class Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.1b. * * *

* * * * *

[Revise the heading and text of 4.3.3 to read as follows:]

4.3.3 Mixed Price

The mixed price applies to qualifying letter-size machinable pieces that the mailer prepares in mixed trays, except for pieces placed in mixed trays in lieu of overflow SCF trays (see 235.5.2.2).

* * * * *

4.5 Nonautomation Nonmachinable Price Application—Letters

[Revise the second sentence of 4.5 to read as follows:]

* * * Nonautomation nonmachinable letters are subject to 5-digit, 3-digit, and mixed prices.

4.5.1 5-Digit Price

[Revise the text of 4.5.1 to read as follows:]

The 5-digit price applies to letter-size mail in quantities of 150 or more pieces for a 5-digit ZIP Code prepared in 5-digit trays (overflow pieces in 3-digit or mixed trays and 10 or more pieces, bundled in 3-digit origin/entry trays).

* * * * *

4.5.3 3-Digit Price

[Revise the text of 4.5.3 to read as follows:]

The 3-digit price applies to letter-size mail in quantities of 150 or more pieces for a 3-digit ZIP Code prepared in 3-digit trays (overflow pieces in mixed trays and 10 or more pieces bundled in 3-digit origin/entry trays).

* * * * *

[Revise the heading and text of 4.5.5 to read as follows:]

4.5.5 Mixed Price

The mixed price applies to letter-size pieces that are subject to nonmachinable prices and prepared in mixed trays.

* * * * *

5.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Automation First-Class Mail

* * * * *

5.4 Price Application—Automation Cards and Letters

Automation prices apply to each piece that is sorted under 235.6.0 into the corresponding qualifying groups:

[Revise items (a) through (d) to read as follows:]

a. Groups of 150 or more pieces in 5-digit/scheme trays qualify for the 5-digit price. Preparation to qualify for the 5-digit price is optional. Pieces placed in full SCF trays in lieu of 5-digit/scheme overflow trays under 235.6.5 are eligible for the 5-digit prices.

b. Groups of 150 or more pieces in SCF trays qualify for the 3-digit price.

c. Groups of fewer than 150 pieces placed in mixed trays in lieu of SCF overflow trays under 235.6.5 are eligible for the 3-digit prices.

d. Pieces in mixed trays qualify for the mixed price, except for pieces prepared under 5.4c.

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 5.4.2 to read as follows:]

5.4.2 3-Digit First Class Mail Cards and Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF-Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the first paragraph of 5.4.2 to read as follows:]

The SCF-pallet discount applies to 3-digit/SCF eligible First Class Mail cards and letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.1b. * * *

* * * * *

5.5 Price Application—Flats

Automation prices apply to each piece that is sorted under 235.8.6, into the corresponding qualifying groups: * * *

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

c. Groups of fewer than 50 pieces in origin 3-digit trays and all pieces in SCF trays qualify for the 3-digit price. Preparation to qualify for the 3-digit price is optional and need not be done for all SCF destinations.

d. All pieces in mixed trays qualify for the mixed price.

* * * * *

5.5.2 3-Digit First-Class Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF-Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the first paragraph of 5.5.2 to read as follows:]

The SCF-pallet discount applies to 3-digit/SCF eligible First Class Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.1b. * * *

[Delete 5.5.3 in its entirety:]

* * * * *

6.0 Eligibility Standards for Card Price First-Class Mail

* * * * *

6.2 Cards and Letters

[Revise the text of 6.2 to read as follows:]

Pieces claimed at First-Class Mail card prices and pieces claimed at First-Class Mail letter prices must meet separate 500-piece minimums when prepared as separate mailings. Card and letter priced pieces are not subject to separate minimum volume criteria when prepared as a combined mailing. Either way, cards and letters may be presented at the same time and reported on the same postage statement.

* * * * *

235 Mail Preparation

* * * * *

1.0 General Definition of Terms

* * * * *

1.3 Terms for Presort Levels

1.3.1 Letters and Cards

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows: * * *

[Revise item (g) to read as follows:]

g. *SCF:* all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L005).

[Delete item (h) in its entirety; renumber items (i) and (j) as (h)and (i) respectively:]

[Revise renumbered item (h) to read as follows:]

h. *Mixed:* the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one SCF etc.

* * * * *

1.3.2 Flats

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows: * * *

[Revise items (f) and (g) to read as follows:]

f. SCF: All pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L016).

g. Mixed: The pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one SCF.

1.4 Preparation Definitions and Instructions

For purposes of preparing mail: * * *

[Delete item (h) in its entirety; renumber items (i) through (n) as (h) through (m) respectively:]

* * * * *

5.0 Preparing Nonautomation Machinable Letters

5.1 Basic Standards

* * * * *

5.1.2 Single-Piece Price Pieces Presented With Presort Mailings

Regardless of postage payment method, mailers may present single-piece price First-Class Mail with pieces claimed at automation or presort prices and report all pieces on the same postage statement. The following standards apply:

a. The mailer must prepare the single-piece price pieces in separate trays from the automation and presort pieces. Mailers must label the trays under 204.3.0 using CIN code 260 on trays of single-piece letters. Label trays as follows:

[Revise item (a1) to read as follows:]

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

* * * * *

5.2 Machinable Preparation

5.2.1 Machinable Bundling

Machinable pieces are not bundled, except for (see 2.0): * * *

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. All pieces in a less-than-full mixed tray.

5.2.2 Traying and Labeling

[Revise 5.2.2 to read as follows:]

Preparation sequence, tray size, and labeling:

a. SCF (required); full trays (no overflow); no minimum for origin entry SCF, with pieces grouped by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use L005.

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM LTR SCF MACH.''

b. Mixed (required); no minimum, with pieces grouped by SCF; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM LTR MACH WKG.''

* * * * *

5.3 Nonmachinable Preparation

5.3.1 Nonmachinable Bundling

[Revise the third sentence of 5.3.1 to read as follows:]

* * * Smaller volumes are not permitted except for mixed bundles.* * *

[Revise item 5.3.1(c) to read as follows:]

c. Mixed (required); no minimum; tan Label X or OEL.

5.3.2 Traying and Labeling

Preparation sequence, tray size, and labeling: * * *

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM LTR MANUAL WKG''.

* * * * *

6.0 Preparing Automation Letters

* * * * *

6.2 Mailings

The requirements for mailings are as follows: * * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. First-Class Mail. A single automation price First-Class Mail mailing may include pieces prepared at 5-digit, 3-digit, and mixed prices.

* * * * *

6.5 Tray Preparation

[Revise the second and fifth sentences of the introductory paragraph to read as follows:]

* * * (For example, if a mailer has 30 overflow 5-digit pieces for ZIP Code 20260, these pieces may be added to an existing qualified SCF tray for the correct destination (ZIP Code prefix 202) and the overflow 5-digit pieces will still qualify for the 5-digit price).* * *

Mailers may use this option selectively for SCF ZIP Codes.* * *

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. *SCF:* optional, but required for 3-digit price (150-piece minimum except no minimum for origin entry SCF); overflow allowed; group pieces by 3-digit ZIP Code. For Line 1, use L005, Column B.

c. *Mixed:* required (no minimum); group pieces by SCF when overflow pieces from SCF trays are placed in mixed trays. For Line 1: ''MXD WKG''

6.6 Tray Line 2

Line 2: ''FCM LTR'' and: * * *

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

c. *SCF:* ''SCF BC''.

d. *Mixed:* ''BC WKG''.

6.7 Presentation

[Revise the first sentence of 6.7 to read as follows:]

Upon presentation of letter-size automation price First-Class Mail mailings to USPS for verification, mailers must present all mixed trays together, and such trays must either be adjacent to one another, or side by side, and must be placed as the top layer(s) on any given container.* * *

* * * * *

7.0 Preparation of Nonautomation Flats

* * * * *

7.2 Single-Piece Price Pieces Presented With Presort Mailings

* * * Mailers must label the trays under 204.3.0 using CIN code 282 on single-piece trays. Label the trays as follows:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. *Line 1:* MXD WKG

* * * * *

7.4 Traying and Labeling

Preparation sequence, tray size, and labeling:* * *

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

c. SCF (optional); full tray or 50 piece minimum (no overflow); labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L016, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM FLTS SCF NON BC''.

d. *Mixed* (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM FLTS NON BC WKG''.

* * * * *

8.0 Preparation of Automation Flats

* * * * *

8.2 Mailings

8.2.1 Automation Pieces

[Revise the second sentence of 8.2.1 to read as follows:]

* * * First-Class Mail mailings may include pieces prepared at automation 5-digit, 3-digit, and mixed prices.* * *

* * * * *

8.5 Traying and Labeling

Tray size, preparation sequence, and Line 1 labeling: * * *

[Revise items (e) and (f) to read as follows:]

e. *SCF:* optional, but required for 3-digit price (full tray or 50-piece minimum); one less-than-full or overflow tray allowed; group pieces by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L016, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM FLTS SCF BC.''

Exception: Pieces are not required to be grouped by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix in SCF trays if the mailing is prepared using an MLOCR/barcode sorter, and standardized documentation is submitted.

f. Mixed (required); no minimum for price eligibility. Group pieces by SCF. labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM FLTS BC WKG.''

Mailers using a MLOCR/barcode sorter and submitting standardized documentation need not group pieces by SCF.

* * * * *

240 Commercial Mail USPS Marketing Mail

243 Prices and Eligibility

1.0 Prices and Fees

* * * * *

1.2 USPS Marketing Mail Prices

USPS Marketing Mail prices are applied as follows:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. The appropriate minimum per piece price applies to USPS Marketing Mail automation or machinable letter-sized mailpiece that weighs 3.5 ounces (0.2188 pound) or less, Nonautomation nonmachinable letters that weigh 4.0 ounces (0.25 pounds) or less, flat-sized mailpieces that weighs 4.0 ounces (0.25 pound) or less, presorted Marketing Parcels and nonstandard parcels that weighs 3.3 ounces (0.2063 pound) or less, and Heavy Printed Matter nonpresorted parcels.

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 1.2(b) to read as follows:]

b. A price determined by adding the per-piece charge and the corresponding per-pound charge applies to the following: * * *

[Revise items b(3) and b(4) to read as follows:]

3. Nonprofit machinable and Nonprofit nonstandard parcels that weigh more than 3.3 ounces;

4. Machinable parcels that weigh 3.5 ounces or more; and

[Add an item b(5) to read as follows:]

5. Regular and Nonprofit Heavy Printed Matter (HPM) presorted and carrier route parcels.

* * * * *

2.0 Content Standards for USPS Marketing Mail

2.1 General

USPS Marketing Mail consists of mailable matter that: * * *

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. Is not authorized to be mailed as Periodicals (unless permitted or required by standard);

c. Weighs no more than 20 ounces (or 24 ounces for carrier route flats); and

[Add an item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Weighs no more than 15 pounds if prepared as Heavy Printed Matter under 9.0.* * *

* * * * *

3.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for USPS Marketing Mail

* * * * *

3.2 Defining Characteristics

3.2.1 Mailpiece Weight

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 3.2.1 to read as follows:]

USPS Marketing Mail parcels and Marketing Parcels must weigh no more than 16 ounces. USPS Marketing Mail presorted must weigh no more than 20 ounces. USPS Marketing Mail carrier route flats must weigh no more than 24 ounces. Heavy Printed Matter parcels must weigh no more than 15 pounds. Flat-size pieces that do not meet the standards in 201.4.3 through 201.4.4 must be prepared as parcels, and the mailer must pay the applicable parcel prices. The following weight limits also apply to pieces mailed at USPS Marketing Mail letter prices: * * *

* * * * *

[Add new 3.2.11 to read as follows:]

3.2.11 Heavy Printed Matter (HPM)

Heavy Printed Matter is a subcategory of Marketing Parcels that includes regular and nonprofit carrier route, presorted, and nonpresorted parcels that weigh no more than 15 pounds. HPM must also meet the additional standards under 9.0.

* * * * *

[Revise 3.4 to read as follows:]

3.4 Barcode Standards

3.4.1 IMpb and IMmb Standards

All USPS Marketing Mail parcels and Heavy Printed Matter parcels must bear an Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) and an Intelligent Mail matrix barcode (IMmb) as outlined in 204.2.0 and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems.* For details see PostalPro at *https://postalpro.usps.com.*

3.4.2 Package Quality Noncompliance Fee

Unless otherwise excepted, mailers of USPS Marketing Mail parcels not meeting the requirements for using a unique IMpb and IMmb, as outlined in 204.2.1.6 and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems,* will be assessed the Package Quality Noncompliance Fee. (See Notice 123–Price List.) For details see PostalPro at *https://postalpro.usps.com.*

* * * * *

3.7 Residual Mail Subject to First-Class Mail or USPS Ground Advantage—Retail Prices

The following applies: * * *

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. Metered pieces weighing more than 13 ounces but not exceeding 20 ounces that do not qualify for USPS Marketing Mail prices, and any pieces that do not qualify for USPS Marketing Mail prices for which First-Class Mail or USPS Ground Advantage—Retail service is desired, must be re-enveloped or otherwise prepared so that they do not bear USPS Marketing Mail markings, endorsements, and ACS codes and must bear the proper First-Class Mail or USPS Ground Advantage—Retail price markings and ACS codes.

c. Mailers with pieces (other than metered pieces weighing more than 13 ounces but not exceeding 20 ounces) that do not qualify for USPS Marketing Mail prices but that are prepared as USPS Marketing Mail and who do not want First-Class Mail or USPS Ground Advantage—Retail service for those pieces may enter their mailpieces ''as is'' (*i.e.,* bearing the USPS Marketing Mail markings and endorsements), provided the requirements in 244.1.0, are met.

* * * * *

4.0 Price Eligibility for USPS Marketing Mail

4.1 General Information

The following apply:

[Add new item (f) to read as follows:]

f. Heavy Printed Matter (HPM) prices are Carrier Route, Presorted, and Nonpresorted prices (including nonprofit prices). These prices apply to mailings meeting:

1. Basic standards in 2.0 through 4.0; and

2. Corresponding standards for Presorted prices, Carrier Route prices, and Nonpresorted prices under 9.0.

* * * * *

4.4 Extra Services for USPS Marketing Mail

4.4.1 Available Services

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 4.4.1 to read as follows:]

Only the following extra services may be used with USPS Marketing Mail parcels, with restrictions as noted in 4.4.2; see 9.0 for Heavy Printed Matter: * * *

* * * * *

5.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Nonautomation USPS Marketing Mail Letters, Flats, and Presorted USPS Marketing Mail Parcels

* * * * *

5.4 Machinable Price Application—Letters

5.4.1 General

[Revise the text of 5.4.1 to read as follows:]

Machinable letters are subject only to 3-digit and mixed prices.

[Revise the heading and text of 5.4.2 to read as follows:]

5.4.2 3-Digit Price

The 3-digit price applies to qualifying letter-size machinable pieces in quantities of 150 or more pieces prepared in SCF trays for a single SCF, and to pieces placed in mixed trays in lieu of overflow SCF trays.

[Revise the heading and text of 5.4.3 to read as follows:]

5.4.3 3-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF-Pallet Discount Eligibility

The SCF-pallet discount applies to 3-digit/SCF eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.4.4 Mixed Price

[Revise the text of 5.4.4 to read as follows:]

The mixed price applies to qualifying letter-size machinable pieces that the mailer prepares in mixed trays, except for pieces placed in mixed trays in lieu of overflow SCF trays (see 245.5.3.2).

5.5 Nonmachinable Price Application—Letters

* * * * *

5.5.2 5-Digit Price

[Revise the text of 5.5.2 to read as follows:]

The 5-digit price applies to letter-size pieces subject to nonmachinable prices in quantities of 150 or more pieces for a 5-digit ZIP Code prepared in 5-digit trays (and overflow pieces in 3-digit or SCF trays) under 245.5.0.

* * * * *

5.5.4 3-Digit Price

[Revise the text of 5.5.4 to read as follows:]

The 3-digit price applies to letter-size pieces subject to nonmachinable prices in quantities of 150 or more pieces for a 3-digit ZIP Code prepared in 3-digit trays (and overflow pieces in SCF or Mixed trays) under 245.5.0.

5.5.5 3-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF-Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 5.5.5 to read as follows:]

The SCF pallet discount applies to 3-digit/SCF-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF entry.

[Delete items 5.5.6 and 5.5.7 in their entirety; renumber item 5.5.8 as 5.5.6:]

[Revise the heading and text of renumber 5.5.6 to read as follows:]

5.5.6 Mixed Price

The mixed price applies to letter-size pieces that are subject to the nonmachinable prices and prepared in mixed trays.

5.6 Nonautomation Price Application—Flats

5.6.1 5-Digit Prices for Flats

[Revise the text of 5.6.1 to read as follows:]

The 5-digit price applies to flat-size pieces:

a. In groups of 50 or more pieces and all pieces in a full 5-digit/scheme flat tray (see 245.1.4).

b. When palletized under 705.8.0 and 705.10.0 through 705.13.0, in a 5-digit/scheme bundle of 10 or more pieces, or 15 or more pieces, as applicable.

c. When palletized under 705.10.0 in a 5-digit bundle of 10 or more pieces, or 15 or more pieces, as applicable; properly placed on a merged 5-digit/scheme or 5-digit pallet.

* * * * *

5.6.3 3-Digit Prices for Flats

[Revise the text of 5.6.3 to read as follows:]

The 3-digit price applies to flat-size pieces:

a. In groups of 50 or more and all pieces in a full tray of 5-digit/scheme or 3-digit/scheme pieces in a 3-digit/SCF flat tray (see 245.1.4).

b. When palletized under 705.8.0 and 705.10.0 through 705.13.0, in a 3-digit/scheme bundle of 10 or more pieces.

* * * * *

[Revise 5.6.5 to read as follows:]

5.6.5 Mixed Prices for Flats

Mixed prices apply to flat-size pieces in bundles that do not qualify for 5-digit or 3-digit prices; placed in mixed flat trays or on mixed pallets under *705.8.0.*

5.7 Prices for Machinable Parcels

* * * * *

[Delete 5.7.2 in its entirety; renumber 5.7.3 as 5.7.2:]

[Revise renumbered 5.7.2 to read as follows:]

5.7.2 Mixed Price

The mixed price applies to machinable parcels that are not eligible for 5-digit prices. Machinable parcels at mixed prices must be placed in mixed sacks or on mixed pallets. See 245.11.3 and 705.8.10.

5.8 Prices for Nonstandard Parcels and Marketing Parcels

* * * * *

[Revise the heading and text of 5.8.2 to read as follows:]

5.8.2 3-Digit Price

3-digit prices apply to nonstandard parcels and Marketing parcels as follows under either of the following conditions:

a. When dropshipped to a DSCF/RPDC and presented:

1. In an SCF/RPDC sack containing at least 10 pounds of parcels.

2. On an SCF/RPDC pallet, according to 705.8.10.

3. In SCF/RPDC containers prepared under 705.21.0.

b. When presented at the origin acceptance office on a 3-digit or SCF/RPDC pallet containing at least 200 pounds of pieces.

[Delete 5.8.3 in its entirety; renumber 5.8.4 as 5.8.3:]

[Revise renumbered 5.8.3 to read as follows:]

5.8.3 Mixed Price

Mixed prices apply to nonstandard parcels and to Marketing Parcels in Mixed containers that are not eligible for 5-digit or 3-digit prices. Parcels at Mixed prices must be placed in mixed sacks under 245.11.4.3 or on mixed pallets under 705.8.10.

* * * * *

6.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Enhanced Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail Letters and Flats

6.1 General Enhanced Carrier Route Standards

* * * * *

6.1.2 Basic Eligibility Standards

All pieces in an Enhanced Carrier Route or Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail mailing must: * * *

[Add an item (k) to read as follows:]

k. Flats must not weigh more than 24 ounces.

* * * * *

7.0 Eligibility Standards for Automation USPS Marketing Mail

* * * * *

7.4 Price Application for Automation Letters

7.4.1 General

Automation prices apply to each piece that is sorted under 245.10.0, into the corresponding qualifying groups:

[Revise the third sentence of item (a) to read as follows:]

a. * * * Pieces placed in full SCF trays under 245.7.5 in lieu of 5-digit/scheme overflow trays are eligible for 5-digit prices (see 245.7.5.)

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. Groups of fewer than 150 pieces in SCF trays qualify for the 3-digit price. Pieces placed in mixed trays under 245.7.5 in lieu of SCF overflow trays also are eligible for 3-digit prices (see 245.7.5).

c. Pieces in mixed trays qualify for the mixed price, except for pieces prepared under 7.4b.

* * * * *

[Revise the heading and text of 7.4.3 to read as follows:]

7.4.3 3-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF-Pallet Discount Eligibility

The SCF-pallet discount applies to 3-digit/SCF-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

7.5 Price Application for Automation Flats

7.5.1 General

[Revise the text of 7.5.1 to read as follows:]

Automation prices apply to each piece properly sorted into qualifying groups:

a. Groups of 50 or more flat-size pieces and all pieces in a full 5-digit/scheme tray qualify for the 5-digit price.

b. Groups of 50 or more flat-size pieces and all pieces in a full 3-digit/scheme/SCF tray qualify for the 3-digit price.

c. All flat-size pieces in mixed trays qualify for the mixed price (no minimum).

* * * * *

7.5.3 3-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF-Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 7.5.3 to read as follows:]

The SCF-pallet discount applies to 3-digit/SCF-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None) or DSCF/LPC entry.

[Delete 7.5.4 in its entirety:]

* * * * *

[Add a new section 9.0 to read as follows:]

9.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Heavy Printed Matter

9.1 Basic Standards

All pieces in a Regular Heavy Printed Matter or Nonprofit Heavy Printed Matter mailing must:

a. Meet the basic standards for USPS Marketing Mail in 2.0 and 3.0 and, for Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail, the additional standards in 703.1.0.

b. Not be used for ''fulfillment purposes'' (*i.e.* the sending of items specifically purchased or requested by the customer of a mailer).

c. Weigh no more than 15 pounds.

d. Exceed the standards of a flat by either weight or ¾″ thickness.

e. Meet the standards in 601.10.0 if prepared as a catalog.

f. Consist of advertising, promotional, directory, or editorial material (or any combination of such material).

g. Be securely bound by permanent fastenings such as staples, spiral binding, glue, or stitching. Loose-leaf binders and similar fastenings are not considered permanent.

h. Consist of sheets of which at least 90% are imprinted by any process other than handwriting or typewriting with words, letters, characters, figures, or images (or any combination of them).

i. Not have the nature of personal correspondence.

j. Not contain books or other non-eligible matter.

k. Meet a volume of at least 200 pieces or 50 pounds of pieces per mailing (except Heavy Printed Matter nonpresorted, non-discounted mailings).

l. Be marked under the corresponding standards in 203.3.5.1 to show the class of service and/or price paid.

m. Bear an Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) and an Intelligent Mail matrix barcode (IMmb) as outlined in 204.2.0 and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems.* For details see PostalPro at *https://postalpro.usps.com.*

9.2 Nonpresorted Heavy Printed Matter

Apply the prices and discounts for nonpresorted Heavy Printed Matter (HPM) as follows:

9.2.1 Prices

Nonpresorted HPM prices are based on the weight of a single addressed piece or one pound, whichever is heavier. The nonpresorted price applies to HPM not mailed at the Presorted or carrier route prices. For prices, see Notice 123–Price List.

9.2.2 Price Application

The nonpresorted HPM price is charged per half-pound from 1 through 5 pounds, and per pound from more than 5 through 15 pounds. For pieces weighing 5 pounds or under, any fraction of a half-pound is considered a whole half-pound. For pieces weighing more than 5 but not more than 15 pounds, any fraction of a pound is considered a whole pound. For example, if a HPM item weighs 4.325 pounds, the weight (postage) increment is 4.5 pounds; if an item weighs 6.25 pounds, the weight (postage) increment is 7 pounds. The minimum postage price per piece is the 1-pound price.

9.2.3 Catalog Incentive Discount

Items qualifying as a catalog under 601.10.0 are eligible for an incentive discount when appropriately identified on the postage statement and/or the eDoc.

9.3 Presorted and Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter

Apply the prices, fees, and discounts for Regular and Nonprofit Presorted and Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter as follows:

9.3.1 Prices

Postage is determined by adding the per-piece charge and the corresponding per-pound charge of each addressed piece. For prices, see Notice 123–Price List.

9.3.2 Price Application

The presorted Heavy Printed Matter price and Carrier Route price has a per piece charge and a per pound charge. Pricing is based on two weight tiers: up to 2.5 pounds and over 2.5 pounds.

The following pallet discounts apply to Presorted and Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter:

a. The SCF-pallet discount applies to Presorted and Carrier Route eligible Heavy Printed Matter parcels that are palletized and entered at Origin or DSCF/LPC entry.

b. The Delivery Sort Container discount applies to each Heavy Printed Matter carrier route parcel palletized under 705.8.0 on a 5-digit carrier routes, 5-digit, or 5-digit scheme pallet entered at an Origin, DSCF, or DDU entry, in a carrier route sack under 245.14.0 and entered at the DDU or in a 5-digit/scheme sack under 245.13.0 and entered at the DDU.

9.3.3 Heavy Printed Matter Destination Entry Prices

Each piece is subject to both a piece price and a pound price.

9.3.4 Determining Single-Piece Weight

To determine single-piece weight in a mailing of nonidentical-weight pieces, weigh each piece individually. To determine single-piece weight in a mailing of identical-weight pieces, weigh a sample of at least 10 randomly selected pieces and divide the total sample weight by the number of pieces. Express all single-piece weights in decimal pounds rounded off to two decimal places.

9.3.5 Computing Postage

Presorted and Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter mailings are charged a per pound price and a per piece price as follows:

a. Per-Piece Charge. The per-piece charge is computed based on the total number of addressed pieces for each price category claimed.

b. Per-Pound Charge. The per-pound charge is computed based on the total weight of the addressed pieces for each price category claimed and is added to the per-piece charge to determine total postage.

c. For each price or price category, multiply the number of addressed pieces by the corresponding price per piece and multiply the unrounded total weight of the pieces by the corresponding price per pound; round off each product to four decimal places.

d. Add the per piece and per pound charges and round off the total postage to the nearest whole cent.

9.3.6 Catalog Incentive Discount

Items qualifying as a catalog under 601.10.0 are eligible for an incentive discount when appropriately identified on the postage statement and/or the eDoc.

9.4 Extra Services for Heavy Printed Matter

9.4.1 Available Services

Only the following extra services may be used with Heavy Printed Matter parcels:

a. USPS Tracking (electronic option only).

b. Certificate of mailing, as provided in 503.5.0.

9.4.2 Additional Preparation Requirements

An eligible mailpiece with an extra service must bear a return address under 602.1.0, and an ancillary service endorsement under 507.1.0. Pieces with USPS Tracking must bear one of the required endorsements: ''Address Service Requested'', ''Forwarding Service Requested'', ''Return Service

Requested'', or ''Change Service Requested''.

* * * * *

244 Postage Payment and Documentation

1.0 Basic Standards for Postage Payment

[Add a sentence at the end of 1.0 to read as follows:]

Postage for all Heavy Printed Matter pieces must be paid via permit imprint.

* * * * *

5.0 Residual Pieces

5.1 Residual USPS Marketing Mail Subject to First-Class Mail or USPS Ground Advantage Prices

[Revise the first sentence of 5.1 to read as follows:]

Mailers with pieces weighing 20 ounces or less that do not qualify for USPS Marketing Mail prices but that are prepared as USPS Marketing Mail must pay single-piece First-Class Mail or USPS Ground Advantage—Retail postage for such pieces. * * *

* * * * *

5.2 Residual USPS Marketing Mail Subject to USPS Ground Advantage—Retail Prices

[Revise the first sentence of 5.2 to read as follows:]

Mailers of permit imprint pieces weighing more than 13 ounces but no more than 20 ounces that do not qualify for USPS Marketing Mail prices but that are prepared as USPS Marketing Mail must pay the USPS Ground Advantage—Retail postage for such pieces.* * *

* * * * *

245 Mail Preparation

* * * * *

1.0 General Information for Mail Preparation

* * * * *

[Renumber current 1.2 through 1.5 as 1.3 through 1.6 respectively; Add a new 1.2 to reads as follows:]

1.2 Basic Preparation—Nonpresorted Heavy Printed Matter

There are no presort, sacking, or labeling standards for nonpresorted Heavy Printed Matter.

* * * * *

[Renumbered]

1.4 Terms for Presort Levels

1.4.1 Letters

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows: * * *

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

e. *Origin/entry SCF:* the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces is addressed for a delivery service area of the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L005). There is no minimum for origin entry SCF.

* * * * *

[Delete items (h) and (i) in their entirety; renumber items (j) and (k) as (h) and (i) respectively:]

[Revise renumbered item (h) to read as follows:]

h. *Mixed:* the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one SCF/LPC.

* * * * *

1.4.2 Flats

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows: * * *

[Delete item (n) in its entirety; renumber items (o) and (p) as (n) and (o) respectively;]

[Revise renumbered item (n) to read as follows:]

n. *Mixed:* the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one SCF.

* * * * *

1.4.3 Marketing Parcels

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows: * * *

[Revise the first sentence of item (d) to read as follows:]

SCF: The separation includes pieces for two or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/regional processing and distribution center (RPDC) (see L051). * * *

[Delete items (e) and (f) in their entirety; renumber items (g) and (h) as (e) and (f) respectively:]

[Revise renumbered item (e) to read as follows:]

e. *Mixed:* the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one SCF/LPC/RPDC, etc.

* * * * *

[Renumbered]

1.5 Preparation Definitions and Instructions

For purposes of preparing mail: * * *

[Delete item (r) in its entirety; renumber items (s) through (y) as (r) through (x) respectively:]

* * * * *

5.0 Preparing Nonautomation Letters

* * * * *

5.3 Machinable Preparation

5.3.1 Machinable Bundling

Machinable pieces are not bundled, except for the following (see 203.4.0):

* * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. All pieces in a less-than-full mixed tray.

5.3.2 Traying and Labeling

[Revise 5.3.2 to read as follows:]

Instead of preparing overflow SCF trays with fewer than 150 pieces, mailers may include these pieces in mixed trays when a tray of 150 or more pieces can be made. Mailers must note these trays on standardized documentation (see 203.3.2). Pieces that are placed in the next tray level must be grouped by destination and placed in the front or back of that tray. Preparation sequence, tray size, and labeling:

a. SCF (optional, but required for 3-digit price); 150-piece minimum except no minimum for origin entry SCF (overflow allowed); group pieces by SCF when overflow pieces from SCF trays are placed in mixed trays; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use L005, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD LTR SCF MACH.''

b. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD LTR MACH WKG.''

5.4 Nonmachinable Preparation

5.4.1 Nonmachinable Bundling

[Revise the third sentence of the introductory paragraph to read as follows:]

* * * Smaller volumes are not permitted except for mixed bundles. * * *

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

c. SCF (required); 10-piece minimum; pink Label A or OEL.

d. Mixed (required); no minimum; tan Label X or OEL.

5.4.2 Traying and Labeling

[Revise the second sentence of the introductory paragraph to read as follows:]

* * * For example, overflow pieces for a 5-digit destination may be placed into an existing correct 3-digit tray; if a 3-digit tray that includes the 5-digit destination does not exist, the overflow pieces may be placed into the correct existing SCF tray. * * *

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

c. SCF (required); 150-piece minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L005, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD LTR SCF MANUAL.''

d. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD LTR MANUAL WKG.''

* * * * *

5.5 Residual Pieces

* * * * *

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

* * * * *

7.0 Preparing Automation Letters

* * * * *

7.5 Tray Preparation

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 7.5 to read as follows:]

Instead of preparing overflow trays with fewer than 150 pieces, mailers may include these pieces in an existing qualified tray of at least 150 or more pieces at the next tray level. (For example, if a mailer has 30 overflow 5-digit pieces for ZIP Code 20260, these pieces may be added to an existing qualified SCF tray for the correct destination and the overflow 5-digit pieces will still qualify for the 5-digit price). Mailers must note these trays on standardized documentation (see 203.3.2). Pieces that are placed in the next tray level must be grouped by destination and placed in the front or back of that tray. Mailers may use this option selectively for SCF ZIP Codes. This option does not apply to origin/entry SCF trays. Preparation sequence, tray size, and Line 1 labeling:* * *

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. *SCF:* optional, but required for 3-digit price (150-piece minimum except no minimum for origin entry SCF); overflow allowed; group pieces by 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) ZIP Code prefix. For Line 1, use L005, Column B.

c. *Mixed:* required (no minimum); group pieces by SCF when overflow pieces from SCF trays are placed in mixed trays. For Line 1 labeling: ''MXD WKG''.

7.6 Tray Line 2

Line 2: ''STD LTR'' and:* * *

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

c. *SCF:* ''SCF BC''.

d. *Mixed:* ''BC WKG''.

7.7 Presentation

[Revise the text of 7.7 to read as follows:]

Upon presentation of letter-size automation price USPS Marketing Mail mailings to USPS for verification, mailers must present all mixed trays together, and such trays must either be adjacent to one another or side by side, and must be placed as the top layer(s) on any given container.

[Revise 8.0 to read as follows:]

8.0 Preparing Nonautomation Flats

8.1 Basic Standards

All mailings and all pieces in each mailing at Regular USPS Marketing Mail and Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail nonautomation prices are subject to specific preparation standards in 8.2 through 8.8 and to these general standards (automation price mailings must be prepared under 10.0):

a. All pieces must be in the flat-size processing category.

b. Bundling is not permitted in flat trays.

c. All pieces must meet the applicable general preparation standards in 1.0 through 4.0 and the following:

1. All regular and Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail pieces must be marked under 202.3.0. Regular and Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail pieces must not be marked ''ECRLOT,'' ''ECRWSH,'' ''ECRWSS,'' ''AUTO,'' or ''Single-Piece'' (or ''SNGLP'').

2. Unless excepted by standard, all pieces must be in the flat-size processing category and must be prepared in flat trays or on pallets. Certain flat-size pieces may be prepared in letter trays under 3.0.

d. All pieces in the mailing must meet the specific sortation and preparation standards in 8.0 or the palletization standards in 705.8.0. Flat-size pieces may be prepared under 705.10.0 through 705.13.0.

e. Sortation determines price eligibility as specified in 243.5.0.

8.2 Bundle Preparation and Labeling

Bundle preparation is for bundles on pallets only. Mailings consisting entirely of pieces meeting the automation-compatibility criteria in 201.6.0 must be prepared in 5-digit scheme bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in L007 and in 3-digit scheme bundles for those 3-digit ZIP Codes identified in L008. Preparation sequence, bundle size except as allowed under 203.4.12, and labeling:

a. 5-digit scheme (required for flats meeting the automation-compatibility standards in 201.6.0), see definition in 1.4j:

1. For mailings containing only pieces weighing 5 ounces (0.3125 pound) or less: 15-piece minimum; red Label 5 SCH, or OEL.

2. For mailings containing any pieces weighing more than 5 ounces (0.3125 pound): 10-piece minimum; red Label 5 SCH, or OEL.

b. 5-digit (optional), see definition in 1.4j:

1. For mailings containing only pieces weighing 5 ounces (0.3125 pound) or less: 15-piece minimum; red Label 5 or OEL.

2. For mailings containing any pieces weighing more than 5 ounces (0.3125 pound): 10-piece minimum; red Label 5 or OEL.

c. 3-digit scheme (required for flats meeting the automation-compatibility standards in 201.6.0), see definition in 1.4o; 10-piece minimum; green Label 3 SCH, or OEL.

d. 3-digit (optional), see definition in 1.4p; 10-piece minimum; green Label 3 or OEL.

e. SCF (optional); 10-piece minimum; pink Label A or OEL.

f. Mixed (required); no minimum; tan Label X or OEL.

8.3 Required Traying

Except as provided in 8.5, a flat tray, or a letter tray under 3.0, must be prepared when the quantity of mail for a required presort destination reaches a full flat tray (up to the handholds) or 50 pieces, whichever occurs first.

8.4 Drop Shipment

A mailer using Priority Mail or Priority Mail Express to drop ship USPS Marketing Mail flat-size pieces may prepare flat trays/sacks containing fewer than 50 pieces.

8.5 Traying, Sacking, and Labeling

Flat trays are allowed for all sortations. Sack preparation is allowed only for the following: Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier-route flats; Nonpalletized carrier-route flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); and nonpalletized 3-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. All other sortations require flat-tray preparation. Preparation sequence and labeling:

a. 5-digit/scheme (optional); scheme sort required (before 5-digit sort), only for pieces meeting the automation flats criteria in 201.6.0, see definition in 1.4j; full flat tray or 50-piece minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* For 5-digit scheme flat trays use L007, Column B. For 5-digit flat trays, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination on pieces. (See 203.5.11 for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* For 5-digit scheme flat trays, use ''STD FLT 5D SCH NON BC.'' For 5-digit flat trays, ''STD FLTS 5D NON BC.''

b. 3-digit (optional); full flat tray or 50-piece minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L002, Column A.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS 3D NON BC.''

c. Origin/entry 3-digits(s) (optional); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L002, Column A.
2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS 3D NON BC.''

d. SCF (optional); full flat tray or 50-piece minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L016, Column B.
2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS SCF NON BC.''

e. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.
2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS NON BC WKG.''

8.6 Cobundling Flats With Automation Mail

The following standards apply:

a. If the mailing job contains a carrier route mailing, an automation mailing, and a nonautomation mailing, then it must be prepared under 705.10.0.

b. If the mailing job contains a carrier route mailing and a nonautomation mailing, then it must be separately sacked or trayed under 8.0 and 9.0 or prepared using the merged palletization option in 705.10.0.

c. If the mailing job contains a carrier route mailing and an automation mailing, then it must be separately sacked or trayed under 9.0 and 10.0 or prepared using the merged palletization option in 705.10.0.

d. Nonautomation pieces may be cobundled with automation pieces under the standards in 705.11.0.

8.7 Merged Containerization of Carrier Route, Automation, and Nonautomation Flats

Under the optional preparation in 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0, nonautomation 5-digit bundles are copalletized with carrier route bundles prepared under 9.0 and with automation 5-digit bundles prepared under 10.0 on merged 5-digit scheme pallets and merged 5-digit pallets. See 8.5a for information on when preparation under 705.10.0 may be required.

8.8 Residual Pieces

Mailers entering USPS Marketing Mail residual pieces that do not qualify for USPS Marketing Mail prices, and paying the applicable single-piece First-Class Mail or USPS Ground Advantage—Retail prices (but prepared ''as is'' under 244.5.0), must separately tray residual pieces from the automation and presort pieces. Mailers must label flat trays under 204.3.0 using the CIN code 582 for use with residual flat trays. Label flat trays as follows:

a. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

b. *Line 2:* Use the human-readable content line corresponding to content identifier number 582 (see Exhibit 204.3.2.4).

c. *Line 3:* Office of mailing or mailer information.

9.0 Preparing Enhanced Carrier Route Flats

* * * * *

9.8 Merged Containerization of Carrier Route, Automation, and Presorted Price Flats

[Revise the text of 9.8 to read as follows:]

Under the optional preparation in 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0, carrier route price bundles prepared under 9.3 and 9.4 are copalletized with Presorted price 5-digit bundles prepared under 8.0 and with automation price 5-digit bundles prepared under 10.0 on merged 5-digit scheme pallets and merged 5-digit pallets. Presorted price pieces may be cobundled with automation price pieces under 705.11.0.

* * * * *

10.0 Preparing Automation Flats

* * * * *

[Revise 10.4 to read as follows:]

10.4 USPS Marketing Mail Bundle and Flat-Tray Preparation

10.4.1 Bundling and Labeling

Bundle preparation is for bundles on pallets only. Preparation sequence, bundle size, except as allowed under 203.4.0, and labeling:

a. 5-digit scheme (optional); see definition in 1.4g:

1. For mailings containing only pieces weighing 5 ounces (0.3125 pound) or less: 15-piece minimum; red Label 5 SCH or OEL.

2. For mailings containing any pieces weighing more than 5 ounces (0.3125 pound): 10-piece minimum; red Label 5 SCH or OEL.

b. 5-digit presort (optional); see definition in 1.4g:

1. For mailings containing only pieces weighing 5 ounces (0.3125 pound) or less: 15-piece minimum; red Label 5 or OEL.

2. For mailings containing any pieces weighing more than 5 ounces (0.3125 pound): 10-piece minimum; red Label 5 or OEL.

c. 3-digit scheme (optional); see definition in 1.4p; 10-piece minimum; green Label 3 SCH or OEL.

d. 3-digit presort (optional); see definition in 1.4p; 10-piece minimum; green Label 3 or OEL.

e. SCF (optional); 10-piece minimum; pink Label A or OEL.

f. Mixed (required); no minimum; tan Label X or OEL.

10.4.2 Required Traying

A flat tray or a letter tray under 3.0, must be prepared when the quantity of mail for a required presort destination reaches a full tray (see 1.4e) or 50 pieces, whichever occurs first.

10.4.3 Traying, Sacking, and Labeling

Sack preparation is allowed only for the following: Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier-route flats; Nonpalletized carrier-route flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); and nonpalletized 3-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. All other sortations require flat-tray preparation. Preparation sequence and labeling:

a. *5-digit/scheme* (optional); scheme sort required before 5-digit sort; see definition in 1.4h; full flat tray or 50-piece minimum, labeling:

1. *Line 1:* For 5-digit scheme flat trays, use L007, Column B. For 5-digit flat trays/sacks, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail (see 203.5.11for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* For 5-digit scheme flat trays, use ''STD FLTS 5D SCH BC.'' For 5-digit flat trays/sacks, use ''STD FLTS 5D BC.''

b. *3-digit* (optional); full flat tray or 50-piece minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L002, Column A.
2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS 3D BC.''

c. *Origin 3-digit(s)* (required) and entry 3-digit(s) (optional); no minimum (for origin and entry); labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L002, Column A.
2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS 3D BC.''

d. *SCF* (optional); full flat tray or 50-piece minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L016, Column B.
2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS SCF BC.''

e. *Mixed* (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.
2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS BC WKG''.

* * * * *

11.0 Preparing Presorted Parcels

* * * * *

11.3 Preparing Machinable Marketing Parcels (3.5 Ounces or More) and Nonprofit Machinable Priced Parcels

11.3.1 Sacking

The following apply:

[Delete item (c) in its entirety; renumber items (d) through (f) as (c) through (e):]

[Revise renumbered item (e) to read as follows:]

e. Mailers combining machinable Marketing Parcels (3.5 ounces or more) with Nonprofit Machinable priced parcels placed in mixed sacks must prepare the sacks under 11.3.2.

11.3.2 Sacking and Labeling

[Revise 11.3.2 to read as follows:]

Preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

a. 5-digit/scheme (optional, but required for 5-digit price), see definition in 1.4n.; allowed only for mail deposited at a DSCF/RPDC or DDU/S&DC. Sacks must contain a 10-pound minimum except at DDU/S&DC entry, which has no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, use L606, Column B. For 5-digit sacks, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination on pieces (see 203.5.11 for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, ''STD MACH 5D SCH.'' For 5-digit sacks, ''STD MACH 5D''.

b. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD MACH WKG''.

11.4 Preparing Nonstandard Marketing Parcels (Less Than 3.5 Ounces) and Nonprofit Nonstandard Priced Parcels

* * * * *

11.4.3 Sacking and Labeling

[Revise 11.4.3 to read as follows:]

Preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

a. 5-digit/scheme (optional, but required for 5-digit price), see definition in 1.4n; allowed only for mail deposited at a DSCF/RPDC or DDU/S&DC. Sacks must contain a 10-pound minimum except at DDU/S&DC entry, which has no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, use L606, Column B. For 5-digit sacks, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination on pieces (see 203.5.11 for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, ''STD NONSTD 5D SCH''. For 5-digit sacks, ''STD NONSTD 5D''.

b. SCF; 10-pound minimum; labeling:

1. For Line 1, Use L051.

2. For Line 2, ''STD NONSTD SCF''.

c. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''

2. *Line 2:* ''STD NONSTD WKG''.

* * * * *

[Add a section 13.0 to read as follows:]

13.0 Preparing Presorted Heavy Printed Matter Parcels

13.1 Basic Standards

All mailings and all pieces in each mailing at Heavy Printed Matter and Nonprofit Heavy Printed Matter prices are subject to the standards in 1.0 to 4.0, and to these general standards:

a. Each mailing must meet the applicable standards in 202.3.0, 243, 245, and 246.

b. All pieces in a mailing must be within the same processing category. See 201.7.0 for definitions of machinable and nonstandard parcels.

c. All pieces must be sorted to the finest extent possible under 13.2 and 13.3 or palletized under 705.8.0.

d. Subject to 202.3.0, pieces must be marked ''Heavy Printed Matter'' (or ''HPM'') and ''Presorted'' (or ''PRSRT'').

13.2 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels

13.2.1 Piece Preparation

Bundling is not permitted.

13.2.2 Sacking

The following apply:

a. Prepare mailings of regular nonstandard parcels and mailings of Nonprofit nonstandard priced parcels under 13.2.

b. Mailers must prepare a sack when the mail for a presort destination reaches 10 pieces or 20 pounds.

c. There is no minimum for parcels prepared in 5-digit/scheme sacks entered at a DDU/S&DC.

d. Mailers combining Nonprofit nonstandard priced parcels with Nonprofit machinable priced parcels and regular machinable parcels in 5-digit/scheme sacks must prepare those sacks under 13.3.

e. Mailers may not prepare sacks containing nonstandard and machinable parcels to other presort levels.

f. Mailers may combine Nonprofit nonstandard priced parcels with regular nonstandard parcels in sacks under 13.2.3.

13.2.3 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

a. 5-digit/scheme (optional),see definition in 1.4n; allowed only for mail deposited at a DSCF/RPDC or DDU/SDC. Sacks must contain a 10 piece or 20-pound minimum except at DDU/SDC entry, which has no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, use L606, Column B. For 5-digit sacks, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination on pieces (see 203.5.11 for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, ''HPM NONSTD 5D SCH''. For 5-digit sacks, ''HPM NONSTD 5D''.

b. 3-digit, 10 piece or 20-pound minimum; labeling:

1. For Line 1, Use L002, Column A.

2. For Line 2, ''HPM NONSTD 3D''.

c. SCF, 10 piece or 20-pound minimum; labeling:

1. For Line 1, Use L051.

2. For Line 2, ''HPM NONSTD SCF''.

d. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''HPM NONSTD WKG''.

13.3 Preparing Machinable Parcels

13.3.1 Sacking

A sack must be prepared when the quantity of mail for a presort destination reaches either 10 addressed pieces or 20 pounds, whichever occurs first. Smaller volumes are not permitted (except mixed sacks). 5-digit scheme sacks may be prepared only when there are at least 10 addressed pieces or 20 pounds, whichever occurs first. Smaller volumes are not permitted. Sacking also is subject to these conditions:

a. Identical-weight pieces that weigh 2 pounds or less must be prepared using the 10-piece minimum; those that weigh more must be prepared using the 20-pound minimum.

b. For nonidentical-weight pieces, mailers must use either the minimum that applies to the average piece weight for the entire mailing (divide the net weight of the mailing by the number of pieces; the resulting average single-piece weight determines whether the 10-piece or 20-pound minimum applies) or sack by the actual piece count or mail weight for each destination, provided that documentation can be provided with the mailing that shows (specifically for each sack) the number of pieces and their total weight.

c. Mailers must note on the postage statement whether they applied the piece count or weight except for USPS Ship mailings prepared under 705.2.9.

d. Prepare mailings of machinable parcels and mailings of Nonprofit machinable priced parcels under 13.3.

e. There is no minimum for parcels in 5-digit/scheme sacks entered at a DDU or DS&DC.

f. Mailers combining nonstandard parcels with machinable parcels places in 5-digit/scheme sacks must prepare those sacks under 13.3.2a.

g. Mailers combing regular machinable parcels with Nonprofit machinable parcels placed in mixed sacks must prepare the sacks under 13.3.2c.

13.3.2 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

a. 5-digit/scheme, optional. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, use L606, Column B. For 5-digit sacks, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination on pieces (see 203.5.11 for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* For 5-digit scheme sacks, ''HPM MACH 5D SCH.'' For 5-digit sacks, ''HPM MACH 5D''.

b. SCF/RPDC, optional. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use L051.

2. *Line 2:* ''HPM MACH SCF''.

c. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use ''MXD WKG''.
2. *Line 2:* ''HPM MACH WKG''.

[Add a section 14.0 to read as follows:]

14.0 Preparing Heavy Printed Matter Carrier-Route Parcels

14.1 Basic Standards

14.1.1 General Standards for Carrier Route Preparation

All mailings of carrier-route Heavy Printed Matter (HPM) are subject to the standards in 14.2 through 14.4 and to these general standards:

a. Each mailing must meet the applicable eligibility standards in 243, mail preparation standards in 2.0, through 4.0, and deposit and entry standards in 246.

b. All pieces in a mailing must be within the same processing category as described in 201.7.0. A Heavy Printed Matter nonstandard parcel is a piece that is not a machinable parcel as defined in 201.7.5.1. Nonstandard parcels also are pieces that meet the size and weight standards for a machinable parcel but are not individually boxed or packaged to withstand processing on RPDC parcel sorters under 601.3.0 and 601.4.0.

c. All pieces must be sorted to the finest extent possible under 9.0, or palletized under 705.8.0.

d. Subject to 202.3.0, pieces must be marked ''Heavy Printed Matter'' (or ''HPM'') and ''Carrier Route Presort'' (or ''CAR–RT SORT'').

14.1.2 Residual Pieces

Residual pieces not sorted under 14.2 and 14.3 may be prepared as a Presorted Heavy Printed Matter mailing under 13.0, provided that they are part of the same mailing job and reported on the same postage statement. Residual pieces paid at the presorted price do not need to meet a separate 200 piece/50 pound minimum. These pieces must be separated from the Carrier Route portion when presented to the USPS for verification.

14.2 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels Weighing Less Than 10 Pounds

14.2.1 Bundle Preparation

Bundling is not required in direct carrier route sacks. Otherwise, a carrier route bundle (or bundles) must be prepared when the quantity of addressed pieces for a carrier route reaches a minimum of 10 pieces or 20 pounds, whichever occurs first. Smaller volumes are not permitted. The maximum weight of each physical bundle is 40 pounds. Each bundle must contain at least two addressed pieces except for the last bundle for each carrier route destination under 203.4.10. Bundles must be labeled with a facing slip unless the bundle is labeled using a carrier route information line (204.3.0) or an optional endorsement line (203.7.0). Bundling also is subject to these conditions:

a. Identical-weight pieces that weigh 2 pounds or less must be prepared using the 10-piece minimum; those that weigh more must be prepared using the 20-pound minimum.

b. For nonidentical-weight pieces, mailers must either use the minimum that applies to the average piece weight for the entire mailing (divide the net weight of the mailing by the number of pieces; the resulting average single-piece weight determines whether the 10-piece or 20-pound minimum applies), or bundle by the actual piece count or mail weight for each bundle destination, provided that documentation can be provided with the mailing that shows (specifically for each bundle) the number of pieces and their total weight.

c. Mailers must note on the accompanying postage statement whether they applied the piece count, weight, or both.

14.2.2 Required Sacking

Mailers may prepare nonstandard parcels as unsacked bundles under 203.4.10 or in bundles on pallets. Otherwise, mailers must prepare a direct carrier route sack when the quantity of mail for an individual carrier route reaches either 10 addressed pieces or 20 pounds, whichever occurs first; smaller volumes are not permitted. Mailers then must place remaining bundles in 5-digit scheme carrier routes sacks or 5-digit carrier routes sacks, which have no minimum sack size. Carrier route sacks also are subject to these conditions:

a. Identical-weight pieces that weigh 2 pounds or less must be prepared using the 10-piece minimum; those that weigh more must be prepared using the 20-pound minimum.

b. For nonidentical-weight pieces, mailers must either use the minimum that applies to the average piece weight for the entire mailing (divide the net weight of the mailing by the number of pieces; the resulting average single-piece weight determines whether the 10-piece or 20-pound minimum applies), or sack by the actual piece count or mail weight for each sack destination, provided that documentation can be provided with the mailing that shows (specifically for each sack) the number of pieces and their total weight.

c. Mailers must note on the accompanying postage statement whether they applied the piece count or weight.

14.2.3 Sack Preparation

Sack preparation sequence and Line 1 labeling:

a. Carrier route: required; for Line 1, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail (see 203.5.11 for overseas military mail).

b. 5-digit scheme carrier routes: optional (no minimum); for Line 1, use L606, Column B.

c. 5-digit carrier routes: required (no minimum); for Line 1, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination of bundles (for military mail, the ZIP Code is preceded by the prefixes under 4.0).

14.2.4 Sack Label Line 2

Line 2 information:

a. Carrier route: ''HPM NONSTD CR,'' followed by the route type and number.

b. 5-digit scheme carrier routes: ''HPM NONSTD CR–RTS SCH.''

c. 5-digit carrier routes: ''HPM NONSTD CR–RTS.''

14.3 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels Weighing 10 Pounds or More

Mailers may prepare nonstandard parcels as unsacked bundles under 203.4.10 or in bundles on pallets. When preparing nonstandard parcels in sacks, place parcels only in direct carrier-route sacks. Each carrier route sack must contain a minimum of 20 pounds. Required preparation:

a. *Line 1:* use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination of the pieces.

b. *Line 2:* ''HPM NONSTD CR,'' followed by the route type and number.

14.4 Preparing Machinable Parcels

14.4.1 Required Carrier Route Sacking

Machinable parcels may be prepared only in direct carrier route sacks. Each carrier route sack must contain a minimum of 10 addressed pieces or 20 pounds, whichever occurs first. Carrier route sacks also are subject to these conditions:

a. Identical-weight pieces that weigh 2 pounds or less must be prepared using the 10-piece minimum; those that weigh more must be prepared using the 20-pound minimum.

b. For nonidentical-weight pieces, mailers must use either the minimum that applies to the average piece weight for the entire mailing (divide the net weight of the mailing by the number of pieces; the resulting average single-piece weight determines whether the 10-piece or 20-pound minimum applies), or sack by the actual piece

count or mail weight for each sack destination, provided that documentation can be provided with the mailing that shows (specifically for each sack) the number of pieces and their total weight.

c. Mailers must note on the accompanying postage statement whether they applied the piece count or weight.

14.4.2 Sack Label

Required preparation:

a. *Line 1:* Use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination of the pieces.

b. *Line 2:* ''HPM MACH CR,'' followed by the route type and number.

* * * * *

246 Enter and Deposit

1.0 Presenting a Mailing

1.1 Basic Standards for USPS Marketing Mail Deposit

All USPS Marketing Mail must be presented at the Post Office where the permit or license is held and the presort mailing fee is paid, at the locations and times specified by the postmaster, except as follows: * * *

[Revise item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail (including Nonprofit Heavy Printed Matter) must be presented only at Post Offices where the organization producing the mailing has an approved nonprofit authorization (703.1.0).

[Add an item (e) to read as follows:]

e. Nonpresorted Heavy Printed Matter postage must be paid via permit imprint and be deposited and accepted at the Post Office that issued the permit, at a time and place designated by the postmaster, except as otherwise provided for plant-verified drop shipments under 604.5.0.

* * * * *

3.0 Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF)/Local Processing Center (LPC) Entry

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3.2 Eligibility

3.2.1 Letters

Pieces in a mailing that meet the standards in 2.0 and 4.0 are eligible for DSCF prices under either 4.2.1a. or 4.2.1b. below:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. When deposited at a DSCF/LPC or USPS-designated facility, and placed in a tray labeled to a destination within the SCF's/LPC's service area, when all pieces in the tray are addressed for delivery within that SCF's/LPC's service area.

* * * * *

3.2.2 Flats

Pieces in a mailing that meets the standards in 2.0 and 4.0 are eligible for the DSCF price, as follows:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. When deposited at a DSCF/LPC or USPS-designated facility, addressed for delivery within the DSCF's/LPC's service area, and placed in a flat tray, sack (when applicable), or on a pallet labeled to the DSCF/LPC or to a destination within its service area.

* * * * *

[Add a 3.4 to read as follows:]

3.4 Heavy Printed Matter DSCF/LPC/RPDC Entry

3.4.1 Eligibility

Heavy Printed Matter pieces in a mailing meeting the standards in 3.0 are eligible for the DSCF price when they meet all of the following additional conditions:

a. Are eligible for and prepared to qualify for Presorted or Carrier Route prices, subject to the corresponding standards for those prices.

b. Are deposited at a DSCF/RPDC listed in L051 or a USPS-designated facility and are addressed for delivery within the DSCF's/RPDC's service area.

c. Are placed in a sack or on a pallet that is labeled to the DSCF/RPDC or labeled to a destination within its service area.

* * * * *

4.0 Destination Delivery Unit (DDU)/Sorting and Delivery Center (S&DC) Entry

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[Add a 4.3 to read as follows:]

4.3 Heavy Printed Matter DDU/SDC Entry

4.3.1 Eligibility

Pieces in a mailing meeting the standards in 2.0, and 5.3 are eligible for the DDU price when they meet all of the following conditions:

a. Are eligible for and prepared to qualify for Presorted or Carrier Route prices, subject to the corresponding standards for those prices.

b. Are addressed for delivery within the ZIP Code(s) served by the destination delivery unit.

c. For parcels prepared using the optional 5-digit scheme sort, use Column B of L606 to determine the 5-digit scheme destination. For parcels prepared using the 5-digit sort, the Drop Shipment Product must be used to determine the 5-digit destination. To determine the location for entry of 5-digit sorted pieces or whether a 5-digit delivery facility can handle pallets (or pallet boxes), refer to the Drop Shipment Product maintained by the National Customer Support Center (NCSC) (see 608.8.1). When the Drop Shipment Product shows that mail for a single 5-digit ZIP Code area is delivered out of more than one postal facility, use the facility from which the majority of city carrier routes are delivered as the facility at which the DDU mail must be entered. The Drop Shipment Product identifies the 5-digit ZIP Codes that are exceptions to the ''majority of city carriers rule'' or other facilities where parcels are normally dropped. If a mailer transports mail to a DDU/S&DC facility that cannot handle pallets, the driver must unload the pallets into containers that the delivery unit specified.

4.3.2 Presorted Machinable Parcels

Presorted machinable parcels in 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sacks or on 5-digit scheme and 5-digit pallets may claim DDU prices. Mail must be entered at the appropriate facility.

4.3.3 Presorted Nonstandard Parcels

Customers mailing presorted nonstandard parcels in 5-digit scheme sacks and 5-digit sacks, on 5-digit scheme or 5-digit pallets may claim DDU prices. Mailers must enter mail at the appropriate facility.

4.3.4 Carrier Route Machinable Parcels

Carrier Route machinable parcels sorted to carrier route sacks may claim DDU prices. Mail must be entered at the appropriate facility.

4.3.5 Carrier-Route Nonstandard Parcels

Customers mailing carrier-route nonstandard parcels in sacks, on 5-digit scheme and 5-digit pallets, or prepared as unsacked carrier route bundles may claim DDU prices. Mailers must enter mail at the appropriate facility.

* * * * *

263 Prices and Eligibility

* * * * *

1.0 Prices and Fees

* * * * *

1.2 Presorted and Carrier Route Bound Printed Matter

* * * * *

1.2.1 Prices

Postage is based on the weight of a single addressed piece or one pound, whichever is heavier. For prices, see Notice 123—Price List.

1.2.2 Price Application

[Revise 1.2.2 to read as follows:]

The presorted and Carrier Route Bound Printed Matter price is charged per pound from 1 through 15 pounds. Any fraction of a pound is considered a whole pound. For example, if a BPM item weighs 6.25 pounds, the weight (postage) increment is 7 pounds. The minimum postage price per piece is the 1-pound price. Deduct the Full-Service Intelligent Mail per-piece discount for each presorted or Carrier Route barcoded flat that complies with the Full-Service Intelligent Mail option requirements under 705.23.0.

[Delete 1.2.3 in its entirety; renumber 1.2.4 through 1.2.8 as 1.2.3 through 1.2.7 respectively:]

[Revise renumbered 1.2.3 to read as follows:]

1.2.3 Bound Printed Matter Destination Entry Prices

Each piece is charged per pound from 1 through 15 pounds. Deduct the Full-Service Intelligent Mail per-piece discount for each presorted or Carrier Route barcoded flat that complies with the Full-Service Intelligent Mail option requirements under 705.23.0. Presorted DDU prices are not available for flats that weigh 1 pound or less.

* * * * *

[Revise renumbered 1.2.6 to read as follows:]

1.2.6 Computing Postage for Permit Imprint

To compute the total postage for a mailing, for each weight increment, multiply the number of pieces by the applicable price per piece. Round each product off to four decimal places; add the products and round up the total postage to the nearest whole cent.

* * * * *

3.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for Bound Printed Matter

* * * * *

[Revise 3.5 to read as follows:]

3.5 Barcode Standards

3.5.1 IMpb and IMmb Standards

Presorted-priced BPM parcels must bear an Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) and an Intelligent Mail matrix barcode (IMmb) as outlined in 204.2.0 and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems.* For details see PostalPro at *https://postalpro.usps.com.*

3.5.2 Package Quality Noncompliance Fee

Unless otherwise excepted, mailers of mailpieces not meeting the requirements for using a unique IMpb and IMmb, as outlined in 204.2.1.6 and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems,* will be assessed the Package Quality Noncompliance Fee. (See Notice 123—Price List.) For details see PostalPro at *https://postalpro.usps.com.*

* * * * *

265 Mail Preparation

* * * * *

1.0 General Information for Mail Preparation

* * * * *

1.4 Terms for Presort Levels

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows: * * *

[Revise the first sentence of item (h) to read as follows:]

h. *SCF:* The separation includes pieces for two or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) [flats]/regional processing and distribution center (RPDC) [parcels] (see L016 for flats and L051 for parcels),* * *

[*Delete item (i) in its entirety; renumber item (j) as (i):*]

* * * * *

1.5 Preparation Definitions and Instructions

For purposes of preparing mail: * * *

[Revise the last sentence of item (g) to read as follows:]

g. * * * Three-digit scheme bundles are placed in 3-digit through mixed containers, as applicable, using the OEL ''label to'' 3-digit ZIP Code or using L008 column B.

* * * * *

2.0 Bundles

* * * * *

2.3 Bundle Sizes for Flats

[Revise the fifth sentence of 2.3 to read as follows:]

* * * Except for mixed bundles and for carrier route bundles in sacks, each physical bundle of BPM must contain at least two pieces. * * *

* * * * *

5.0 Preparing Presorted Flats

* * * * *

5.2 Bundling

5.2.1 Required Bundling

[Revise the third sentence of 5.2.1 to read as follows:]

* * * Only mixed bundles or bundles prepared under 2.3 may contain smaller volumes. * * *

* * * * *

5.2.2 Bundling and Labeling

[Revise items (e) and (f) to read as follows:]

e. SCF (required); pink Label A or OEL.

f. Mixed (required); tan Label X or OEL.

5.3 Sacking

5.3.1 Required Sacking

[Revise the third sentence of the introductory paragraph of 5.3.1 to read as follows:]

* * * Only mixed sacks may contain smaller volumes. * * *

* * * * *

5.3.3 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling: * * *

[Delete item (d) in its entirety; renumber item (e) as (d):]

[Revise renumbered item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Mixed (required); labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PSVC FLTS NON BC WKG''.

* * * * *

7.0 Preparing Barcoded Flats

* * * * *

7.3.2 Bundle Preparation

Bundles must be prepared and labeled in the following sequence: * * *

[Revise items (e) and (f) to read as follows:]

e. SCF: (minimum 10 pieces or 10 pounds, maximum weight 20 pounds); pink Label A or OEL.

f. Mixed: (no minimum, maximum weight 20 pounds); tan Label X or OEL.

* * * * *

7.4 Sacking

Preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling: * * *

[Delete item (d) in its entirety; renumber item (e) as (d):]

[Revise renumbered item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Mixed (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PSVC FLTS BC WKG''.

* * * * *

8.0 Preparing Presorted Parcels

* * * * *

8.2 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels

* * * * *

8.2.2 Required Sacking

[Revise the second sentence of 8.2.2 to read as follows:]

* * * Smaller volumes are not permitted (except mixed sacks). * * *

* * * * *

8.2.3 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling: * * *

[Delete item (d) in its entirety; renumber item (e) as (d):]

[Revise renumbered item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Mixed (required); labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PSVC NONSTD WKG''.

8.3 Preparing Machinable Parcels

* * * * *

8.3.2 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling: * * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. Mixed (required); labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PSVC MACH WKG''.

* * * * *

266 Enter and Deposit

* * * * *

4.0 Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF)/Local Processing Center (LPC) Entry

4.1 Eligibility

* * * * *

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. Are placed in a sack or on a pallet that is labeled to the DSCF/LPC/RPDC or labeled to a destination within its service area.

4.2 Presorted Flats

[Revise the first sentence of 4.2 to read as follows:]

Presorted flats and automation flats in sacks for the 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF sort levels or on pallets at the 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF sort levels may have DSCF prices. * * *

4.3 Carrier Route Flats

[Revise the first sentence of 4.3 to read as follows:]

Carrier route flats in sacks at all sort levels or on pallets at the 5-digit scheme carrier routes, 5-digit carrier routes, 3-digit, and SCF sort levels may claim DSCF prices. * * *

* * * * *

270 Commercial Mail Media Mail and Library Mail

273 Prices and Eligibility

* * * * *

5.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for Media Mail and Library Mail

* * * * *

[Add a 5.6 to read as follows:]

5.6 Package Quality Noncompliance Fee

Unless otherwise excepted, mailers of mailpieces not meeting the requirements for using a unique IMpb and IMmb, as outlined in 204.2.1.6 and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems,* will be assessed the Package Quality Noncompliance Fee. (See Notice 123–Price List.) For details see PostalPro at *https://postalpro.usps.com.*

* * * * *

500 Additional Mailing Services

503 Extra Services

* * * * *

7.0 USPS Tracking

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 7.1.2 to read as follows:]

7.1.2 Electronic Option USPS Tracking for USPS Marketing Mail and Heavy Printed Matter Parcels

[Revise the first and second sentences of 7.1.2 to read as follows:]

If electronic option USPS Tracking is requested for all parcels in a USPS Marketing Mail mailing and the pieces are of identical weight, then postage may be paid only with metered postage or permit imprint under 244.2.0. Heavy Printed Matter postage may be paid only with permit imprint. Electronic-option USPS Tracking may be purchased for USPS Marketing Mail parcels and Heavy Printed Matter parcels by mailers using privately printed forms or labels, or Label 888, and who establish an electronic link with the USPS to exchange acceptance and delivery data. * * *

* * * * *

507 Mailer Services

* * * * *

4.0 Address Correction Services

4.1 Address Correction Service

* * * * *

4.1.5 Other Classes

Address correction service for classes other than Periodicals under 4.1.4 is provided as follows:

a. When possible, ''on-piece'' address correction is provided for the following mailpieces: * * *

[Revise item (a5) to read as follows:]

5. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter); * * *

* * * * *

11.0 USPS Tracking Plus Service

* * * * *

11.2 Scan Data Retention

USPS Tracking Plus service is available for scan data retention on mailpieces shipped via the following products: * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. USPS Marketing Mail, Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail, and Heavy Printed Matter parcels with purchased USPS Tracking and Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail parcels with a trackable extra service.

* * * * *

508 Recipient Services

* * * * *

7.0 Premium Forwarding Services

* * * * *

7.2 Premium Forwarding Service Residential

* * * * *

7.2.6 Weekly Priority Mail Shipments

Premium Forwarding Service Residential shipments are dispatched weekly (on Wednesday) as Priority Mail with USPS Tracking service. Regardless of any mailer's ancillary service endorsement on a mailpiece, and provided it fits within the shipment container, all mail is included in the weekly Priority Mail shipment, except as follows: * * *

b. Mailpieces that do not fit in the shipment container, or that require a scan or signature at delivery, are scanned (when applicable) and then rerouted separately to the temporary address, subject to the following:

[Revise item (b3) to read as follows:]

3. Heavy Printed Matter, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail pieces are rerouted separately and the mailer charged postage due at the appropriate single-piece price for the class or subclass of mail in which the piece was originally shipped.

* * * * *

600 Basic Standards for All Mailing Services

601 Mailability

* * * * *

10.0 Catalogs

[Revise the second sentence of 10.0 to read as follows:]

* * * A catalog mailpiece may be letter-shaped, flat-shaped or parcel-shaped, and is mailed at USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) or Bound Printed Matter rates. * * *

* * * * *

602 Addressing

* * * * *

4.0 Detached Address Labels (DALs)

* * * * *

4.6 Postage

* * * * *

4.6.2 Postage Computation and Payment

* * * * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. USPS Marketing Mail flats (except EDDM flats) and parcels (including Heavy Printed Matter), and Bound Printed Matter pieces must be paid by permit imprint, which must appear on each DAL.

* * * * *

604 Postage Payment Methods and Refunds

* * * * *

5.0 Permit Imprint (Indicia)

5.1 General Standards

5.1.1 Definition

A mailer may be authorized to mail material without affixing postage when payment is made at the time of mailing from a permit-imprint advance-deposit account established with USPS. The following apply:

a. This payment method is not available for Periodicals, but may be used for postage and extra-service fees for the following types of mailpieces: * * *

[Revise item a(5) to read as follows:]

5. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter); * * *

* * * * *

5.1.5 Application Fee

[Revise 5.1.5 to read as follows:]

An application fee is required only when a permit imprint is used as the payment method for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Bound Printed Matter Flats and international mail, and the mailer does not use the Electronic Verification System (eVS). If a customer pays a permit imprint application fee, it is accepted for domestic and/or international outbound mailings.

* * * * *

5.3 Indicia Design, Placement, and Content

* * * * *

5.3.7 USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select and Package Services Format

[Revise the first sentence of 5.3.7 to read as follows:]

A USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select, or Package Services permit imprint indicia must contain the same information required in 5.3.6, except that the USPS Marketing Mail (Standard Mail), Heavy Printed Matter, Parcel Select, or applicable Package Services (Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail or Library Mail) marking must be used instead of ''First-Class Mail''.* * *

* * * * *

700 Special Standards

703 Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail and Other Unique Eligibility

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9.0 Mixed Classes

* * * * *

9.3 Eligibility for an Enclosure in Periodicals Publication

* * * * *

9.3.2 Loose Enclosure

A loose enclosure may be mailed with a bound Periodicals publication only if: * * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. For USPS Marketing Mail matter, the total weight of all enclosed material does not exceed 20 ounces.

* * * * *

705 Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems

* * * * *

5.0 First-Class Mail or USPS Marketing Mail Mailings with Different Payment Methods

* * * * *

5.3 Producing the Combined Mailing

* * * * *

5.3.2 Price and Postage Marking

[Revise the chart in item (a) to read as follows:]

a. First-Class Mail:

PRICE MARKING

Price and postage category	Letters/cards		Flats	
	Automation	Full service	Automation	Full service
Barcoded 1 ounce Permit Imprint.	P1	P1	F1	F1.
Barcoded 2 ounce Permit Imprint.	P2	P2	F2	F2.
Barcoded 3 ounce Permit Imprint.	P3	P3	F3	F3.
Barcoded 4 ounce Permit Imprint.	P4	P4	F4	F4.
Barcoded 5 ounce Permit Imprint.			F5	F5.
Barcoded 6 ounce Permit Imprint.			F6	F6.
Barcoded 7 ounce Permit Imprint.			F7	F7.
Barcoded 8 ounce Permit Imprint.			F8	F8.

PRICE MARKING—Continued

Price and postage category	Letters/cards		Flats	
	Automation	Full service	Automation	Full service
Barcoded 9 ounce Permit Imprint.	.....	.....	F9	F9.
Barcoded 10 ounce Permit Imprint.	.....	.....	F0	F0.
Barcoded 11 ounce Permit Imprint.	.....	.....	FA	FA.
Barcoded 12 ounce Permit Imprint.	.....	.....	FB	FB.
Barcoded 13 ounce Permit Imprint.	.....	.....	FC	FC.
Promotional Postage Meter Affixed.	PL	PL	PF	PF.
Barcoded 5-Digit Meter Postage Affixed.	5B	5F	B5	X5.
Barcoded 3-Digit Meter Postage Affixed.	3B	3F	B3	X3.
Barcoded SCF Meter Postage Affixed.	AB	AF	BA	XA.
Barcoded Mixed Meter Postage Affixed.	MB	MF	BM	XM.
Machinable Mixed Meter Postage Affixed.	MP	.....	.....	
Precanceled $0.15 Stamp Affixed (card).	S1	S1	.....	
Precanceled $0.25 Stamp Affixed.	S2	S2	.....	

[Revise the chart in item (b) to read as follows:]

a. USPS Marketing Mail (letters only):

PRICE MARKING

Price and postage category	Automation	Full service
Barcoded Regular Permit Imprint	PI	PI.
Barcoded Nonprofit Permit Imprint	NI	NI.
Regular Promotional Postage Meter Affixed	PR	PR.
Nonprofit Promotional Postage Meter Affixed ...	PN	PN.
Barcoded 5-Digit Meter Regular Postage Affixed.	R5	RF.
Barcoded 5-Digit Meter Nonprofit Postage Affixed.	N5	NF.
Barcoded 3-Digit Meter Regular Postage Affixed.	R3	RT.
Barcoded 3-Digit Meter Nonprofit Postage Affixed.	N3	NT.
Barcoded SCF Meter Regular Postage Affixed	RA	RD.
Barcoded SCF Meter Nonprofit Postage Affixed.	NA	ND.
Barcoded MXD Meter Regular Postage Affixed	RM	RX.
Barcoded MXD Meter Nonprofit Postage Affixed.	NM	NX.
Presorted SCF Meter Regular Postage Affixed	R8	
Presorted SCF Meter Nonprofit Postage Affixed.	N8	
Presorted Basic Meter Regular Postage Affixed	R9	
Presorted Basic Meter Nonprofit Postage Affixed.	N9	
Precanceled Regular Rate Stamp Affixed ($.10).	SR	SR.
Precanceled Nonprofit Stamp Affixed ($.05)	SN	SN.

* * * * *

5.3.4 Rejected Pieces

a. If postage-affixed, bear postage or have additional postage affixed to equal a price no lower than: * * *

[Revise item (a)2 to read as follows:]

2. For USPS Marketing Mail, the correct 5-Digit or 3-Digit (as applicable) Presorted USPS Marketing Mail price for letters.

* * * * *

6.0 Combining Mailings of USPS Marketing Mail, Package Services, and Parcel Select Parcels

6.1 Basic Standards for Combining Parcels

6.1.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 6.1.1 to read as follows:]

USPS Marketing Mail (includes Heavy Printed Matter) parcels, Package Services parcels, and Parcel Select parcels in combined mailings must meet the following standards: * * *

* * * * *

6.2 Combining Parcels—DSCF and DDU Prices

6.2.1 Qualification

Combination requirements for specific discounts and prices are as follows:

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

a. When the mailer pays DSCF prices, Parcel Select, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) and Bound Printed Matter parcels may be combined under 6.2.

b. All USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels may be combined with Package Services and Parcel Select parcels prepared for DDU prices under 6.2.

6.2.2 Preparation and Prices

Combined parcels must be prepared as follows:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. *Minimum Mailing Volume.* Separate minimum mailing volume requirements must be met for USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels, Package Services, and for Parcel Select parcels.

[Revise the introductory text of item (b) to read as follows:]

b. Parcel Select or Bound Printed Matter Qualifying for DSCF Prices. Mailers must prepare the combined mailings under the applicable 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sack requirements in 255.4.2 or the applicable 5-digit scheme and 5-digit pallet requirements in 8.0 for the Parcel Select DSCF prices. All other requirements for Parcel Select DSCF prices, and USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) prices, as applicable, must be met.

[Revise item b(1) to read as follows:]

1. If sacked under 255.4.2, the minimum requirement of seven pieces per sack must be met with only Package Services and Parcel Select parcels. After the minimum sack volume has been met, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels may be included in the sack or in overflow sacks.

[Revise the last sentence of item b(2) to read as follows:]

2. * * *After the minimum pallet volume has been met, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels may be included on the pallet or in overflow sacks.

[Revise item b(3) to read as follows:]

3. If palletized under the alternate pallet preparation where no pallet may contain less than 35 pieces and 200 pounds, provided the average number of pieces on pallets qualifying for the DSCF price is at least 50, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels may not be combined with Package Services and Parcel Select parcels.

[Revise item b(4) to read as follows:]

4. If palletized under the option to prepare 5-digit scheme or 5-digit pallets under the 36-inch-high (mail only) pallet minimum, any combination of USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Package Services, and Parcel Select parcels may be used to meet the minimum pallet-height requirement.

[Revise item b(6) to read as follows:]

6. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels are eligible for presorted prices according to 243.

[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

c. Package Services, Parcel Select and USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels qualifying for DDU prices: * * *

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 6.3 to read as follows:]

6.3 Combining Package Services, Parcel Select, and USPS Marketing Mail (Including Heavy Printed Matter)—Optional 3-Digit SCF/RPDC Entry

* * * * *

6.3.2 Qualification and Preparation

[Revise the introductory text of 6.3.2 to read as follows:]

Parcel Select and Bound Printed Matter machinable parcels, and USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels may be prepared for entry at designated SCFs/RPDCs under these standards:* * *

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. USPS Marketing Mail, nonstandard Marketing parcels (regular and Nonprofit), Nonprofit nonstandard-priced, and nonstandard Heavy Printed Matter (regular and Nonprofit) parcels are eligible for the 3-digit presort-level DSCF price.

* * * * *

8.0 Preparing Pallets

* * * * *

8.5 General Preparation

8.5.1 Presort

The following apply:* * *

[Revise items (d) and (e) to read as follows:]

d. For sacks, trays, or machinable parcels on pallets, the mailer must prepare all required pallet levels before any mixed pallets are prepared for a mailing or job.

e. The standards for bundle reallocation to protect the SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) pallet (8.11, 8.13, and 8.13) are optional methods of pallet preparation designed to retain as much mail as possible at the SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) level.

* * * * *

8.5.2 Required Preparation

[Revise the introductory text of 8.5.2 to read as follows:]

The following standards apply to Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services, except Parcel Select mailed at DSCF and DDU prices:* * *

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. For bundles of flat-size mailpieces or bundles of nonstandard parcels on pallets, after preparing all possible pallets under 8.5.2a, when 250 or more pounds of bundles remain for an SCF mailers must prepare the SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) or Mixed pallet, as applicable for the class of mail.

c. Bundles that cannot be placed on an SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) pallet may be placed on a mixed pallet or be placed in sacks or flat trays (when applicable) (see 8.9.1).

8.5.3 Minimum Load

The following minimum-load standards apply to mail prepared on pallets:

[Revise the introductory text of item (a) to read as follows:]

a. For Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), and Package Services (see 8.5.3b for Parcel Select mailed at DSCF and DDU prices):* * *

[Delete item (a3) in its entirety; renumber items (a4) through (a6) as (a3) through (a5) respectively:]

[Revise renumbered item (a3) to read as follows:]

3. A pallet may contain a minimum of 100 pounds of nonletter-size mail or 12 linear feet of letter trays if it is:

(a) An SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) pallet entered at the destination SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels); or

(b) The only pallet entered at an individual destination SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) facility.

* * * * *

8.5.6 Mail on Pallets

These standards apply to mail on pallets:* * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. When two or more Periodicals mailings, two or more USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) mailings, or two or more Bound Printed Matter mailings are placed together on pallets, the mailer must keep records for each mailing as required by the standards for the class of mail.

* * * * *

[Revise item (g) to read as follows:]

g. For sacks or flat trays of Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), and Bound Printed Matter flats or nonstandard parcels, carrier-route-price mail must be prepared on separate 5-digit pallets from automation-price and/or Presorted-price mail.

* * * * *

8.6 Pallet Labels

* * * * *

8.6.2 Specifications

[Revise the first sentence of 8.6.2 to read as follows:]

Pallet labels must be pink for Periodicals and white for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Package Services, and Parcel Select.

* * * * *

8.6.4 Line 1 (Destination Line)

Line 1 (destination line) must meet these standards:* * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. *Information.* Line 1 must contain only the information specified by standard, including the appropriate destination facility prefix (*e.g.,* ''SCF''). Two zeros may follow the 3-digit ZIP Code prefix required by labeling standards (*e.g.,* 223 as 22300). Leave the ZIP Code prefix blank if a MXD WKG container.

* * * * *

8.6.5 Line 2 (Content Line)

Line 2 (content line) must meet these standards:***

a. *Codes.* The codes shown below must be used as appropriate on Line 2 of sack, tray, and pallet labels.

Content Type	Code
[Add an item in alphabetical order to read as follows:]	
Heavy Printed Matter	HPM

* * * * *

8.6.8 Extraneous Information

Extraneous information is permitted on pallet labels if: * * *

[Revise the last sentence of item (c) to read as follows:]

c. * * * *Exception:* For combined mailings of USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) and Package Services machinable parcels, mailer codes and extraneous information may appear between the content line and the office of mailing or mailer information line.

* * * * *

8.6.10 Pallet Bundle Information

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

b. 5-digit and 3-digit automation price bundles; and

c. 5-digit and 3-digit Presorted price bundles.

* * * * *

8.8 Basic Uses

These types of mail may be palletized: * * *

[Revise item (g) to read as follows:]

g. Combined mailings of machinable parcels (USPS Marketing Mail [including Heavy Printed Matter] and Package Services), subject to 6.0.

* * * * *

8.9 Bundles on Pallets

8.9.1 Applicability

[Revise the first sentence of 8.9.1 to read as follows:]

Presort destination bundles of Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), and Bound Printed Matter flats and nonstandard parcels may be placed directly on pallets under 8.9.2 through 8.9.5 and 8.10. * * *

8.9.2 Basic Bundling Standards

[Revise 8.9.2 to read as follows:]

Bundle preparation for Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), and Bound Printed Matter mailpieces must meet the applicable standards for each class or subclass of mail. Bundles may be sorted onto pallets under 8.10 and 10.0, 12.0, and 13.0.

* * * * *

[Revise 8.9.4 to read as follows:]

8.9.4 USPS Marketing Mail (Including Heavy Printed Matter)

a. USPS Marketing Mail bundle size: 10-piece or 15-piece minimum as applicable; 20-pound maximum, except that:

1. All pieces for the same presort destination must be in one bundle if they weigh less than 10 pounds. Otherwise, bundles must weigh from 10 to 20 pounds each.

2. The last bundle to a presort destination may contain less than 10 pounds.

b. Heavy Printed Matter minimum bundle size: 10 pieces or 10 pounds, whichever comes first. Only presorted and carrier route nonstandard parcels that weigh less than 10 pounds each may be prepared as bundles on pallets. The following also applies:

1. Presorted price pieces that weigh 10 or more pounds each must be prepared and palletized as machinable parcels under *8.10.7* or prepared in sacks under *245.13.0.*

2. Carrier-route pieces that individually weigh 10 or more pounds each must either be prepared and palletized as machinable parcels under *8.10.7,* and qualify for Presorted prices, or be prepared in sacks under *245.14.0* and qualify for carrier-route prices.

* * * * *

8.10 Pallet Presort and Labeling

8.10.1 First-Class Mail—Letter Trays or Flat Trays

[Revise 8.10.1 to read as follows:]

Mailers may palletize First-Class Mail according to a local customer/supplier agreement or under 8.10.1. First-Class Mail palletization is optional, but mailers using this option must prepare pallets in the sequence listed below and complete each required level before preparing the next optional or required level. Pallets must contain at least 72 linear feet of letter trays (six full layers) or 24 linear feet of flats trays (three full layers). Maximum pallet height is 12 layers or 77 inches of letter trays (whichever occurs first) or 77 inches of flats trays. When available and with approval by the plant manager of the origin facility, mailers may use all-purpose containers (APCs) or other

USPS-approved containers. Mailers approved to use APCs must prepare containers when they have a minimum of 48 linear feet of letter trays or 16 linear feet of flats trays to a presort destination. Preparation, sequence, and labeling:

a. 5-digit. Optional. Pallet may contain trays only for the same 5-digit ZIP Code (for non-automation letters and flats) or 5-digit scheme ZIP codes (automation letters only). Place 5-digit scheme trays on 5-digit pallets according to the destination shown in the current City State Product. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination.

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM LTRS'' or ''FCM FLTS'', followed by ''5D''.

b. SCF/LPC. Required; no minimum for origin SCF/LPC. For destinations listed in L005 for letters and L016 for flats based on origin ZIP Code. Pallets contain trays destined for the 3-digit ZIP Codes in L005 for letters and L016 for flats. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L005 for letters, L016 for flats, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM LTRS'' or ''FCM FLTS'', followed by ''SCF''.

c. Mixed. Required; no minimum. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''FCM LTRS'' or ''FCM FLTS'', followed by ''WKG''.

8.10.2 Periodicals—Bundles, Sacks, Letter Trays or Flat Trays

* * * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. *SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels),* required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). The pallet may contain carrier-route-price, automation-price, and/or Presorted-price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L005 for letters, L016 for flats, L051 for parcels. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L005 for letters, L016 for flats, L051 for parcels.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'', as applicable; followed by ''FLTS'', ''NONSTD'', or ''LTRS'', as applicable; followed by ''SCF''; followed by ''BARCODED'' (or ''BC'') if pallet contains automation-price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' (or ''NBC'') if pallet contains carrier-route-price mail and/or Presorted-price mail.

[Delete items (i) and (j) in its entirety; renumber item (k) as (i):]

[Revise renumbered item (i) to read as follows:]

i. Mixed, optional for sacks and trays; allowed with no minimum and required at 100 pounds of mail for bundles of flats. Bundles of flats totaling less than 100 pounds in weight must be trayed if not palletized. The pallet may contain carrier-route mail, automation-price mail, or Presorted-price mail. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS,'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS'', ''NONSTD'', or ''LTRS'', as applicable; followed by ''BARCODED'' (or ''BC'') if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' (or ''NBC'') if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail; followed by ''WKG''.

* * * * *

8.10.3 USPS Marketing Mail—Bundles, Sacks, or Trays

[Revise the fifth sentence of the introductory text to read as follows:]

* * * For parcels, including Heavy Printed Matter, mailers must use this preparation only for nonstandard parcels in sacks. * * *

d. *5-digit, required except for trays,* permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (when applicable). The pallet must contain only automation price and/or Presorted price mail for the same 5-digit ZIP Code or same 5-digit scheme. 5-digit scheme bundles and trays are assigned to 5-digit pallets according to the ''label to'' 5-digit ZIP Code. Labeling: * * *

[Add a sentence at the end of d(2) to read as follows:]

* * * For HPM nonstandard parcels, use ''HPM NONSTD 5D''.

* * * * *

[Revise item (f) to read as follows:]

f. SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels), required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). The pallet may contain carrier-route, automation-price, and/or presorted-price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L005 for letters, L016 for flats, L051 for parcels. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use L005 for letters, L016 for flats, L051 for parcels.

2. *Line 2:* For flats and nonstandard parcels, ''STD'' followed by ''FLTS'' or ''NONSTD'', as applicable; followed by ''SCF''; followed by ''BARCODED'' (or ''BC'') if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' (or ''NBC'') if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail. For letters, ''STD LTRS SCF''; followed by ''BC'' if pallet contains barcoded letters; followed by ''MACH'' if pallet contains machinable letters; followed by ''MAN'' if pallet contains nonmachinable letters. For HPM nonstandard parcels, use ''HPM NONSTD SCF''.

[Delete items (g) through (i) in their entirety; renumber item (j) as (g):]

[Revise renumbered item (g) to read as follows:]

g. Mixed, optional, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). Allowed with no minimum and required at 100 pounds of mail for bundles of flats. Flats totaling less than 100 pounds in weight must be trayed if not palletized. The pallet may contain carrier route, automation, and/or Presorted mail. Mailers must place trays and sacks containing pieces paid at the single-piece price on the mixed pallet (unless required to be presented separately by special postage payment authorization). Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD'' followed by ''FLTS'' or ''NONSTD'', as applicable; followed by ''BARCODED'' (or ''BC'') if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' (or ''NBC'') if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail; followed by ''WKG''. For letters, ''STD LTRS''; followed by ''BC'' if pallet contains barcoded letters; followed by ''MACH'' if pallet contains machinable letters; followed by ''MAN'' if pallet contains nonmachinable letters; followed by ''WKG''. For HPM nonstandard parcels, use ''HPM NONSTD WKG''.

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 8.10.6 to read as follows:]

8.10.6 Machinable Bound Printed Matter Parcels and Combined Mailings of USPS Marketing Mail Marketing Parcels 3.5 Ounces or More, USPS Marketing Mail (Including Heavy Printed Matter), Package Services, and Parcel Select Machinable Parcels

[Revise the introductory text of 8.10.6 to read as follows:]

Prepare pallets under 8.0 in the sequence below. Unless indicated as optional, all sort levels are required. Combined mailings of USPS Marketing Mail Marketing parcels, USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services machinable parcels also must meet the standards in 6.0 or 21.0. Label pallets according to Line 1 and Line 2 information below and under applicable standards 8.6. Preparation sequence and labeling: * * *

* * * * *

[Revise 8.10.7 to read as follows:]

8.10.7 Machinable Parcels—USPS Marketing Mail, Including Heavy Printed Matter and Marketing Parcels 3.5 Ounces or More

Mailers who palletize machinable parcels must make pallets or pallet boxes when there are 250 pounds or more for the destination levels below for DSCF or DDU prices. Prepare pallets

under *8.0* in the sequence below. Unless indicated as optional, all sort levels are required. Label pallets under applicable standards in *8.6* and according to Line 1 and Line 2 information below:

a. *5-digit scheme,* required. Pallet must contain parcels for the same 5-digit scheme under *L606.* For 5-digit destinations not part of *L606,* prepare 5-digit pallets under *8.10.7b,* Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use *L606.*

2. *Line 2:* ''STD MACH 5D'' or ''HPM MACH 5D''; followed by ''SCHEME'' or (''SCH'').

b. *5-digit,* required. Pallet must contain parcels only for the same 5-digit ZIP Code. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination (see *8.6.4c* for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* ''STD MACH 5D'' or ''HPM MACH 5D''.

c. *SCF/RPDC,* optional. Allowed only for mail deposited at a DSCF/DRPDC to claim SCF price. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use *L051.*

2. *Line 2:* ''STD MACH SCF'' or ''HPM MACH SCF''.

d. *Mixed,* optional; no minimum. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD MACH WKG'' or ''HPM MACH WKG''.

[Revise 8.10.8 to read as follows:]

8.10.8 Nonstandard Parcels Weighing 2 Ounces or More—USPS Marketing Mail, Including Marketing and Heavy Printed Matter Parcels

Mailers who palletize unbundled or unsacked nonstandard parcels must make pallets or pallet boxes when there are 250 pounds or more for the destination levels below for DDU prices. Mailers must prepare pallets or pallet boxes of nonstandard parcels (except tubes, rolls, and similar pieces) weighing 2 ounces or more under 8.0 and in the sequence listed below. Mailers must label pallets or pallet boxes according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 8.6. Mailers may not prepare tubes, rolls, and similar pieces or pieces that weigh less than 2 ounces on pallets or in pallet boxes, except for pieces in carrier-route bundles or in sacks under 8.10.3. Preparation sequence and labeling:

a. *5-digit scheme,* required. Pallet or pallet box must contain parcels only for the same 5-digit scheme under L606. For 5-digit destinations not part of L606 prepare 5-digit pallets under 8.10.8b. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use L606.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD NONSTD 5D'' or ''HPM NONSTD 5D''; followed by ''SCHEME'' (or ''SCH'').

b. *5-digit,* required. Pallet or pallet box must contain parcels only for the same 5-digit ZIP Code. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination (see 8.6.4c for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* ''STD NONSTD 5D'' or ''HPM NONSTD 5D''.

c. *SCF/RPDC,* required. Allowed only for mail deposited at a DSCF/DRPDC to claim SCF price. labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use L051.

2. *Line 2:* Use ''STD NONSTD SCF'' or ''HPM NONSTD SCF''.

d. *Mixed,* optional. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD NONSTD WKG'' or ''HPM NONSTD WKG''.

* * * * *

8.11 Bundle Reallocation to Protect SCF/LPC/RPDC Pallet for Periodicals Flats and Nonstandard Parcels and USPS Marketing Mail Flats on Pallets

8.11.1 Basic Standards

The following apply: * * *

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. Reallocation is performed only when there is mail for the SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) service area that would fall beyond the SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) pallet level.

* * * * *

8.11.3 Reallocation of Bundles If Optional 3-Digit Pallets Are Prepared

Reallocation rules are as follows: * * *

[Revise the last sentence of item (d) to read as follows:]

d. * * * Mail that falls beyond the SCF/RPDC pallet level must be placed on the next appropriate pallet or in the next appropriate sack (nonstandard parcels) or flat tray.

8.11.4 Reallocating Bundles If Optional 3-Digit Pallets Are Not Prepared

Reallocation rules are as follows: * * *

[Revise the last sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

b. * * * Mail that falls beyond the SCF/RPDC pallet level must be placed on the next appropriate pallet or in the next appropriate sack (nonstandard parcels) or flat tray.

* * * * *

[Delete 8.12 in its entirety; renumber 8.13 through 8.20 as 8.12 through 8.19 respectively:]

* * * * *

[Renumbered]

8.12 Pallets of Bundles, Sacks, and Trays

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 8.12.2 to read as follows:]

8.12.2 USPS Marketing Mail, Including Heavy Printed Matter

* * * * *

[Renumbered]

8.14 Copalletized Letter-Size and Flat-Size Pieces—Periodicals or USPS Marketing Mail

* * * * *

8.14.2 Periodicals

Additional standards are as follows: * * *

c. Documentation meeting the basic standard in 203.3.0 must be provided with each mailing. Before copalletizing, the mailer must obtain the written approval of the director, Business Acceptance Solutions. Approval is based on the mailer's demonstrated ability to provide documentation meeting these standards: * * *

[Revise item c(4) to read as follows:]

4. Documentation showing that 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF/LPC pallets are prepared when the applicable minimum volume is developed in the copalletized mailing for these destinations.

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of renumbered 8.19 to read as follows:]

8.19 Parcel Select and Bound Printed Matter DDU Prices

* * * * *

9.0 Combining Bundles of Automation and Nonautomation Flats in Flat Trays and Sacks

9.1 Periodicals

* * * * *

9.1.3 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

The following apply: * * *

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. Mailers of pieces in low-volume bundles must claim the applicable mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County).

* * * * *

[Revise item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Mailers of pieces in low-volume bundles must claim the applicable mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County).

* * * * *

[Revise 9.1.5 to read as follows:]

9.1.5 Flat Tray Preparation—Flat-Size Machinable Pieces

See 207.20.0 for using flat trays. For machinable pieces meeting the criteria in 201.6.0, mailers must bundle or group all pieces as specified in 207.25.0

and 207.22.0 for each 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, 3-digit, and SCF destination. Bundling in flat trays is optional when no mail in that tray would have been more finely sorted, if bundled. Bundles must be trayed and labeled separately from loose flats prepared in flat trays. Tray preparation, sequence, and labeling:

a. *5-digit scheme,* required at 72 pieces; optional at 24 pieces minimum, labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L007, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''5D SCH BC/NBC''.

b. *5-digit,* required at 72 pieces; optional at 24 pieces minimum, labeling:

1. *Line 1:* city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail (see 204.3.2.2 for overseas military mail).

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''5D BC/NBC''.

c. *3-digit,* required at 72 pieces; optional at 24 pieces minimum, labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L002, Column A.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''3D BC/NBC''.

d. *SCF,* required at 72 pieces; optional at 24 pieces minimum, (no minimum for origin entry SCF), labeling:

1. *Line 1:* L016, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' or ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''SCF BC/NBC''.

e. Mixed (required), no minimum, labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PER'' ''NEWS'' as applicable; followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''BC/NBC WKG''.

[Delete 9.2 in its entirety; renumber 9.3 as 9.2:]

* * * * *

[Renumbered]

9.2 Bound Printed Matter

* * * * *

9.2.4 Flat Tray/Sack Preparation and Labeling

* * * * *

[Delete item (d) in its entirety; renumber item (e) as (d):]

[Revise renumbered item (d) to read as follows:]

d. *Mixed, required,* no minimum; labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''PSVC FLTS BC/NBC WKG''.

10.0 Merging Bundles of Flats Using the City State Product

10.1 Periodicals

10.1.1 Basic Standards

* * * * *

[Revise the third sentence of item (g) to read as follows:]

g. * * * Mailers may combine firm bundles with 5-digit scheme, 3-digit scheme, and other presort destination bundles in carrier route, 5-digit, 3-digit, SCF, and mixed flat trays. * * *

* * * * *

10.1.3 Bundles With Less Than 6 Pieces

[Revise the second sentence of the introductory paragraph to read as follows:]

* * * Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the applicable mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). * * *

* * * * *

10.1.4 Sack and Flat-Tray Preparation and Labeling

* * * * *

[Revise item (i) to read as follows:]

i. *SCF through mixed.* Any 5-digit scheme and 5-digit bundles remaining after preparing sacks/flat trays under 10.1.4a through 10.1.4h and all 3-digit, 3-digit scheme, SCF, and mixed bundles must be sacked/trayed and labeled under 9.1 for cosacking/cotraying of barcoded price and nonbarcoded price bundles, except if there are no barcoded price bundles in the mailing job, sack/flat tray and label under 207.22.6, or if there are no nonbarcoded price bundles in the mailing job, sack/flat tray and label under 207.25.4.

10.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

* * * * *

[Revise item (g) to read as follows:]

g. *SCF/LPC and mixed,* use 8.10.2h and 8.10.2i, as applicable, to prepare and label these pallet levels.

* * * * *

[Revise 10.2 to read as follows:]

10.2 USPS Marketing Mail

10.2.1 Basic Standards

Carrier route bundles from a carrier route price mailing may be placed on the same pallet as 5-digit bundles from an automation price mailing and 5-digit bundles from a Presorted price mailing (including pieces cobundled under 11.0) under the following conditions:

a. A carrier route mailing must be part of the mailing job.

b. The pieces in the carrier route price mailing, the automation price mailing, and the Presorted price mailing must be part of the same mailing job, and all three mailings must be reported on the same postage statement.

c. Pieces in the automation price mailing must meet the criteria for a flat under 201.6.0. Pieces in the Presorted price mailing and the carrier route mailing must meet the criteria for a flat under 201.4.0.

d. Mailers must use the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product to prepare the mailing and enter the mailing no later than 90 days after the release date of the City State Product used.

e. Carrier route bundles may be copalletized with automation price 5-digit bundles, Presorted price 5-digit bundles, and cobundled 5-digit bundles only for those 5-digit ZIP Codes that have an ''A'' or ''C'' indicator in the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product indicating eligibility for such copalletization. Containers of mail sorted in this manner are called ''merged 5-digit'' pallets. Containers of mail sorted in this manner for which scheme (L001) sortation is also performed are called ''merged 5-digit scheme'' pallets. Pieces in 5-digit scheme (L007) bundles may not be placed in merged 5-digit containers.

f. If sortation under this section is performed, merged 5-digit pallets must be prepared for all 5-digit ZIP Codes with an ''A'' or ''C'' indicator in the City State Product that permits such preparation when there is enough volume for the 5-digit ZIP Code to prepare that pallet.

g. The pieces in each separate mailing must bear the applicable markings required under 245.5.0, 245.6.0, or 245.7.0 and under 202.

h. For palletized mailings, the prices are based on the level of bundle that the pieces are contained in under 243.6.0 and 243.7.0.

i. The bundles from each separate mailing must be sorted together on pallets (copalletized) under 10.2.5 using presort software that is PAVE-certified.

j. A complete postage statement, using the correct USPS form, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures.

k. In addition to the applicable postage statement, documentation produced by PAVE-certified software must be submitted with each copalletized mailing job that describes for each pallet sortation level and pallet, the number of pieces qualifying for each applicable carrier route price, each applicable automation price, and each applicable Presorted price.

10.2.2 Bundle Preparation

Bundles placed on pallets must be prepared under the standards in 8.0.

10.2.3 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

Mailers must prepare pallets of bundles in the manner and sequence listed below and under 8.0. When sortation under this option is performed, after completing required or optional carrier route pallets (if any), mailers must prepare all merged 5-digit scheme and merged 5-digit pallets that are possible in the mailing based on the volume of mail to the destination using L001 and/or the City State Product. Mailers must label pallets according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 8.6.

a. *5-digit scheme carrier routes,* required; optional with no minimum. May contain only carrier route bundles for carrier routes for 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in the L001 5-digit scheme listing. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use L001, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS CR–RTS SCHEME'' followed by ''HD/HD+'' if the pallet contains High Density/High Density Plus flats.

b. *Merged 5-digit scheme,* required and permitted only when there is at least one 5-digit ZIP Code in the scheme that has an ''A'' or ''C'' indicator in the City State Product. May contain carrier route bundles for any 5-digit ZIP Code(s) in a single scheme listed in L001 as well as automation price 5-digit bundles and Presorted price 5-digit bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes in the scheme that have an ''A'' or ''C'' indicator in the City State Product. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use L001, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS CR/5D SCHEME followed by ''HD/HD+'' if the pallet contains High Density/High Density Plus flats.

c. *5-digit carrier routes,* required; optional with no minimum. May contain only carrier route price bundles for the same 5-digit ZIP Code for those 5-digit ZIP Codes that are not part of a scheme. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination (see 8.6.4 for military mail).

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS,'' followed by ''CARRIER ROUTES'' or ''CR–RTS'' followed by ''HD/HD+'' if the pallet contains High Density/High Density Plus flats.

d. *Merged 5-digit,* required, may contain carrier route price bundles, automation price 5-digit bundles, and Presorted price 5-digit bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes that are not part of a scheme and that have an ''A'' or ''C'' indicator in the City State Product. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination (see 8.6.4 for military mail).

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS CR/5D'' followed by ''HD/HD+'' if the pallet contains High Density/High Density Plus flats.

e. *5-digit,* required, may contain only automation price 5-digit bundles and Presorted price 5-digit bundles for the same 5-digit ZIP Code with a ''B'' or ''D'' indicator in the City State Product, or 5-digit scheme (L007) bundles (automation price and cobundled automation and Presorted price pieces only). Five-digit scheme bundles are assigned to 5-digit pallets according to the ''label to'' 5-digit ZIP Code in L007. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination (see 8.6.4 for military mail).

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS 5D''; followed by ''BARCODED'' or ''BC'' if the pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' or ''NBC'' if the pallet contains Presorted price mail.

f. *3-digit,* optional, option not available for 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes marked ''N'' in L002. May contain carrier route price, automation price, and Presorted price mail, including 3-digit scheme (L008) bundles (automation and cobundled automation and Presorted price pieces only). Three-digit scheme bundles are assigned to 3-digit pallets according to the ''label to'' 3-digit ZIP Code in L008. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use L002, Column A.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS 3D''; followed by ''BARCODED'' or ''BC'' if the pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' or ''NBC'' if the pallet contains Presorted price mail and/or carrier route price mail.

g. *SCF/LPC,* required, may contain carrier-route price, automation-price, and Presorted-price bundles. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* use L016, Column B.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD FLTS SCF''; followed by ''BARCODED'' or ''BC'' if the pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' or ''NBC'' if the pallet contains Presorted price mail and/or carrier route price mail.

h. *Mixed,* optional, allowed with no minimum. The pallet may contain carrier route, automation, and/or Presorted mail. Mailers must place trays containing pieces paid at the single-piece price on the mixed pallet (unless required to be presented separately by special postage payment authorization). Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD'' followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''BARCODED'' (or ''BC'') if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' (or ''NBC'') if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail; followed by ''WKG''.

11.0 Combining Automation Price and Nonautomation Price Flats in Bundles

11.1 Periodicals

* * * * *

11.1.2 Bundle Preparation

* * * * *

[Revise item (f) to read as follows:]

f. *SCF, required,* six-piece minimum; pink Label A or OEL.

[Delete item (g) in its entirety; renumber item (h) as (g):]

[Revise renumbered item (g) to read as follows:]

g. *Mixed,* required, no minimum; tan Label X or OEL.

11.1.3 Bundles With Less Than 6 Pieces

[Revise the second sentence of the introductory paragraph to read as follows:]

* * * Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the applicable mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). * * *

* * * * *

11.2 USPS Marketing Mail

11.2.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 11.2.1 to read as follows:]

Mailers may choose to cobundle (see 245.1.4y) automation price and nonautomation price flat-size pieces as an option to the basic bundling requirements in 245.8.0 and 245.10.0. All pieces in the same bundle must meet the standards in 201.6.0. 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme bundles must meet the additional standards in 245.1.4h and 245.1.4p. Mailing jobs prepared using the 5-digit scheme and/or 3-digit scheme bundle preparation (for flats meeting the criteria in 201.6.0) must be palletized under 10.0, 12.0, or 13.0. All bundles are subject to the following conditions: * * *

[Delete item (b) in its entirety; renumber items (c) through (f) as (b) through (e) respectively:]

* * * * *

11.2.2 Bundle Preparation

* * * * *

[Revise items (e) and (f) to read as follows:]

e. SCF, required, 10-piece minimum; pink Label A or OEL.

f. *Mixed, required,* no minimum; tan Label X or OEL.

11.3 Bound Printed Matter

* * * * *

11.3.2 Bundle Preparation

Preparation sequence, bundle size, and labeling: * * *

[Revise items (e) and (f) to read as follows:]

e. *SCF, required,* minimum 10 addressed pieces or 10 pounds, maximum bundle weight 20 pounds; pink Label A or OEL.

f. *Mixed, required,* no minimum, maximum bundle weight 20 pounds; tan Label X or OEL.

12.0 Merging Bundles of Flats on Pallets Using a 5 Percent Threshold

* * * * *

12.1.3 Low-Volume Bundles

[Revise the last sentence of 12.1.3 to read as follows:]

* * * Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the applicable mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County).

12.1.4 5% Threshold

* * * * *

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

e. For the purpose of determining the 5% threshold, addressed pieces in low-volume carrier route bundles count as carrier route sorted pieces, and addressed pieces in low-volume 5-digit bundles count as 5-digit sorted pieces, even though the mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County) is paid for such pieces.

12.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

* * * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. SCF/LPC and mixed, use 8.10.2h and 8.10.2i, as applicable, to prepare and label these pallet levels.

* * * * *

13.0 Merging Bundles of Flats on Pallets Using the City State Product and a 5-Percent Threshold

13.1 Periodicals

* * * * *

13.1.3 Low-Volume Bundles

[Revise 13.1.3 to read as follows:]

Carrier route and 5-digit bundles may contain fewer than six pieces when the publisher determines that such preparation improves service. Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the applicable mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County).

13.1.4 5% Threshold—5-Digit ZIP Codes Identified With a ''B'' or ''D'' Indicator

* * * * *

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

e. For the purpose of determining the 5% threshold, addressed pieces in low-volume carrier route bundles count as carrier route sorted pieces, and addressed pieces in low-volume 5-digit bundles count as 5-digit sorted pieces, even though the mixed price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County) is paid for such pieces.

13.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

* * * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. *SCF/LPC and mixed,* use 8.10.2h and 8.10.2i, as applicable, to prepare and label these pallet levels.

13.2 USPS Marketing Mail

* * * * *

13.2.4 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

* * * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. *Mixed, optional* allowed with no minimum. The pallet may contain carrier route, automation, and/or Presorted mail. Mailers must place trays containing pieces paid at the single-piece price on the mixed pallet (unless required to be presented separately by special postage payment authorization). Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD'' followed by ''FLTS''; followed by ''BARCODED'' (or ''BC'') if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by ''NONBARCODED'' (or ''NBC'') if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail; followed by ''WKG''.

* * * * *

15.0 Combining USPS Marketing Mail Flats, Bound Printed Matter Flats, and Periodicals Flats

15.1 Basic Standards

15.1.1 General

Authorized mailers may combine USPS Marketing Mail flats, Bound Printed Matter flats, and Periodicals flats in a single mailing as follows: * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. Bound Printed Matter flats must not weigh more than 20 ounces when combined in applicable bundles, and must be entered at a destination sectional center facility (DSCF)/local processing center (LPC) on 5-digit or 3-digit/sectional center facility (SCF) level pallets, or at a destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting and delivery center (S&DC).

[Add an item (i) to read as follows:]

i. USPS Marketing Mail flat-sized pieces must not exceed 20 ounces if prepared in the CR-level bundle with certain Periodicals pieces that may weigh more than 20 ounces.

* * * * *

[Delete 15.1.8 through 15.1.10 in its entirety; renumber 15.1.11 as 15.1.8:]

* * * * *

15.2 Combining USPS Marketing Mail Flats, Bound Printed Matter Flats, and Periodicals Flats in the Same Bundle

15.2.1 Bundling and Labeling

[Revise the introductory paragraph to read as follows:]

USPS Marketing Mail flats and Periodicals flats may be combined in carrier route, 5-digit (scheme), 3-digit, SCF, and mixed bundles when prepared according to 207.19.0 and these additional standards: * * *

* * * * *

15.4 Pallet Preparation

15.4.1 Pallet Preparation, Sequence and Labeling

* * * * *

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

h. Mixed, required, 100 pound minimum. Pallet may contain carrier-route, automation or presorted mail. Unless authorized by the processing and distribution manager, pallet must be entered at the facility serving the 3-digit ZIP Code of the entry Post Office. Labeling:

1. *Line 1:* Use ''MXD WKG''.

2. *Line 2:* ''STD/BPM/PER FLTS;'' followed by ''BARCODED'' (or ''BC''); ''NONBARCODED'' (or ''NBC'') for Presorted mail, or ''BARCODED/NONBARCODED'' (or ''BC/NBC'') for mixed pallets; followed by ''WKG''; followed by ''MIX COMAIL''.

* * * * *

16.0 Plant-Load Mailings

* * * * *

16.7 Interdistrict Plant-Loaded Shipments

* * * * *

16.7.2 First-Class Mail

[Revise 16.7.2 to read as follows:]

For plant-loaded shipments of First-Class Mail, if there is enough mail for the same SCF/LPC service area to fill 60 percent or more of a vehicle by weight or by cube (a minimum of 28,000 pounds or 2,000 cubic feet), the mailer must prepare a direct vehicle for that SCF/LPC.

16.7.3 Periodicals

[Revise 16.7.3 to read as follows:]

For plant-loaded shipments of Periodicals:

a. If there is enough mail for the same SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) service area to fill 60 percent or more of a vehicle by weight or by cube, the mailer must prepare a direct vehicle for that SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels).

b. After loading all possible SCF/LPC (letters, flats)/RPDC (parcels) vehicles, if there is enough mail for the same transfer hub service area to fill 60 percent or more of a vehicle by weight or by cube, the mailer must prepare a direct vehicle for that transfer hub.

* * * * *

16.7.7 Sufficient Volume

Two or more mailings, which independently have sufficient volume to require destination vehicles to be prepared, must meet these standards when combined:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. For First-Class Mail, if there is enough mail for the same SCF service area to fill 60 percent or more of a vehicle by weight or by cube, the mailer must prepare a direct vehicle for the SCF.

* * * * *

18.0 Priority Mail Express Open and Distribute and Priority Mail Open and Distribute

18.1 Prices and Fees

18.1.1 Basis of Price

The basis of price for Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail Open and Distribute is as follows:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

a. Priority Mail Express postage is based on the zone and weight of the contents of the Open and Distribute shipment. Do not include the tare weight of the external container. Do not apply Priority Mail Express dimensional weight pricing to the external container. The maximum weight for each container is 70 pounds.

* * * * *

21.0 Optional Combined Parcel Mailings

[Revise the heading of 21.1 to read as follows:]

21.1 Basic Standards for Combining Parcel Select, Package Services, and USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) Parcels

21.1.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 21.1.1 to read as follows:]

Package Services parcels, Parcel Select parcels, and USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) parcels in a combined parcel mailing must meet the following standards:

* * *

d. Combined mailings must meet the following minimum volume requirements:

[Revise item d(1) to read as follows:]

1. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter)—Minimum 200 pieces or 50 pounds of parcels per class.

[Revise item d(3) to read as follows:]

3. If claiming Presorted BPM prices—Minimum 300 parcels.

* * * * *

21.2 Price Eligibility

21.2.1 Eligible Prices

[Revise the text of 21.2.1 to read as follows:]

Combined parcels may be eligible for USPS Marketing Mail (including single-piece and presorted Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, single-piece Media Mail, single-piece Library Mail, and destination entry prices and discounts as applicable.

21.2.2 Price Application

Apply prices based on the criteria in 201 and the following standards: ***

[Revise items (a) through (d) to read as follows:]

a. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter) and Parcel Select parcel prices are based on the container level and entry (see 243.5.0 and 253).

b. Bound Printed Matter (BPM) parcels qualify for single-piece prices or Presorted Bound Printed Matter prices as follows:

1. Presorted prices for BPM pieces prepared in other than MXD containers when the combined mailing contains at least 300 pieces of BPM.

2. Nonpresorted prices for pieces prepared in MXD containers, and when the combined mailing contains less than 300 pieces of BPM.

3. Destination entry prices based on entry.

c. Media Mail parcels qualify for single-piece prices for pieces prepared in MXD containers, and when the combined mailing contains less than 300 pieces of Media Mail.

d. Library Mail parcels qualify for single-piece prices for pieces in MXD containers, and when the combined mailing contains less than 300 pieces of Library Mail.

* * * * *

21.3 Mail Preparation

* * * * *

21.3.1 Basic Standards

Prepare combined mailings as follows:

a. Different parcel types must be prepared separately for combined parcel mailings as indicated below:

[Revise items a(1) through a(3) to read as follows:]

1. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services machinable parcels: Use ''STD/PSVC MACH'' for line 2 content labeling.

2. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services nonstandard parcels, except for tubes, rolls, triangles, and other similarly nonstandard-shaped pieces: Use ''STD/PSVC'' for line 2 content labeling.

3. USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services tubes, rolls, triangles, and similarly nonstandard-shaped parcels: Use ''STD/PSVC NONSTD'' for line 2 content labeling.

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 21.3.2 to read as follows:]

21.3.2 Combining USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services Machinable Parcels

[Revise the introductory text of 21.3.2 to read as follows:]

Prepare and enter USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services machinable parcels, and USPS Marketing Mail Marketing parcels 6 ounces or more, as combined machinable parcels as shown in the table below.

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 21.3.3 to read as follows:]

21.3.3 Combining USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services APPS-Machinable Parcels

[Revise the introductory text of 21.3.3 to read as follows:]

The mailer must prepare and enter USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services nonstandard parcels, that are not tubes, rolls, triangles, or similarly nonstandard-shaped parcels, as combined APPS-machinable parcels based on the minimums in the table below.

COMBINED PREPARATION

[Revise the charts column headings to read as follows:]

3-Digit SCF Mixed

* * * * *

[Revise the heading of 21.3.4 to read as follows:]

21.3.4 Combining USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services Parcels (Not APPS-Machinable)

[Revise the introductory text of 21.3.4 to read as follows:]

The mailer must prepare and enter USPS Marketing Mail (including Heavy Printed Matter), Parcel Select, and Package Services parcels, and USPS Marketing Mail Marketing parcels under 2 ounces, as combined not-APPS-machinable parcels based on the minimums in the table below.

COMBINED PREPARATION

[Revise the charts column headings to read as follows:]

3-Digit	SCF	Mixed

* * * * *

Index

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B

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Bound Printed Matter, commercial flats

* * * * *

[Delete entry ''DNDC, 266.4.0'':]

* * * * *

[Delete entry ''DNDC prices, 266.4.0'']

* * * * *

Bound Printed Matter, commercial parcels

* * * * *

[Delete entry ''DNDC/RPDC entry, 266.4.0'':]

* * * * *

N

* * * * *

Delete entry ''Network Distribution Center (NDC)/Regional Processing & Distribution Center (RPDC) acceptance'':]

* * * * *

U

* * * * *

USPS Marketing Mail, flats

* * * * *

[Delete entry ''DNDC/RPDC entry, 246.3.0'']

* * * * *

USPS Marketing Mail, letters

* * * * *

[Delete entry ''DNDC/RPDC entry, 246.3.0'']

* * * * *

USPS Marketing Mail, parcels

* * * * *

[Delete entry ''DNDC/RPDC entry, 246.3.0'']

* * * * *

Notice 123 (Price List)

[Revise prices as applicable.]

* * * * *

Jeffrey Boblick,

Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2026–11003 Filed 6–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

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Federal Register

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S. 4530/P.L. 119–95
To amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to authorize an increase of the retirement age for members of the Capitol Police. (May 29, 2026; 140 Stat. 833)
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