

Submission of Federal Rules Under the  
Congressional Review ActSelect recipients of this submission: ☐ President of the Senate ☒ Speaker of the House of Representatives ☐ GAO**Instructions: Submit information about your agency's rule by filling out the information below and on page 2 and sending the completed form to RulesC@gao.gov.**

1. Name of Department or Agency

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

2. Subdivision or Office

3. Rule Title

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age; Missing Participants Mortality Assumption

4. Please indicate whether a concise summary of the rule is included in the rule or as a separate attachment

☒ In the Rule ☐ Separate Attachment

5. Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) or Other Unique Identifier (if applicable):

6. Indicate whether this rule is one of the following: ☐ Draft Rule ☒ Final Rule ☐ Draft Guideline ☐ Final Guideline  
☐ Other (specify)

7. Identify the statutory authorization for this rule by citing the relevant section(s) and title(s) of the United States Code or relevant Public Law(s):

29 U.S.C. 1301(a), 1302(b)(3), 1341, 1344, 1362

8. CRA defines major rule as "any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—(A) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more; (B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets," 5 U.S.C. § 804(2). Please indicate whether this rule is major or non-major.

☐ Major\* ☒ Non-Major\* If this rule is a major rule, please provide documentary evidence indicating when the rule was received by the House and Senate. For example, an agency may submit a citation to the *Congressional Record* page that discusses receipt of the rule, or, if receipt of the rule has not yet been discussed in the *Congressional Record*, signed delivery receipts from the House and Senate.

9. Please identify the effective date of the rule and, if this rule is a major rule, whether the stated effective date of the rule complies with 5 U.S.C. § 801(a)(3)(A) or whether an exception in 5 U.S.C. § 808 applies.

January 1, 2026

Submitted by:

Name: Joseph Krettek

Title: Assistant General Counsel

**For Congressional Use Only:**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee of Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	No	N/A	For major rules only - Citation to Discussion of Statute/E.O. in Rule
A. With respect to this rule, did your agency prepare an analysis of costs and benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
B. With respect to this rule, at the final rulemaking stage, did your agency:				
a. Certify that the rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under 5 U.S.C. § 605(b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b. Prepare a final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis under 5 U.S.C. § 604(a)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
C. With respect to this rule, did your agency prepare a written statement under § 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
D. With respect to this rule, did your agency prepare a statement regarding compliance with the requirements of the Administrative Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2023, Pub. L. No. 118-5, div. B, title III, 137 Stat. 31 (June 3, 2023)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
E. With respect to this rule, did your agency solicit public comments and address public comments in the final rule?				
a. If yes, please provide the Federal Register citation of the proposed rule(s) below or a copy of the proposed rule(s):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>				
F. Does this rule contain a collection of information requiring OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
G. Did you discuss any of the following in the preamble to the rule:				
a. E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. E.O. 13132, Federalism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Other statutes or executive orders discussed in the preamble concerning the rulemaking process (please specify) and, for major rules only, include citations to the discussions in the rule:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

PayGo does not apply to this rule because it does not increase direct spending.



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January 1, 2026

Submitted by:

Name: Joseph Kretek

Title: Assistant General Counsel

**For Congressional Use Only:**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee of Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_



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January 1, 2026

Submitted by:

Name: Joseph Kretek

Title: Assistant General Counsel

**For Congressional Use Only:**

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controlling such drug under the schedule he deems most appropriate to carry out such obligations, and “without regard to” the findings and rulemaking procedures otherwise required for scheduling actions in 21 U.S.C. 811(a) and (b). *Id.*

In accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811(d)(1), scheduling actions for drugs that are required to be controlled by the United States’ obligations under international treaties, conventions, or protocols in effect on October 27, 1970, shall be issued by order, as opposed to scheduling by rule pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(a). Therefore, DEA believes that the notice-and-comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. 553, do not apply to this scheduling action.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601–612) applies to rules that are subject to notice and comment under the APA or any other law. As explained above, the CSA exempts this final order from notice and comment. Consequently, the RFA does not apply to this action.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This action does not impose a new collection of information requirement under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.<sup>7</sup> Also, this action does not impose

new or modify existing recordkeeping or reporting requirements on State or local governments, individuals, businesses, or organizations. However, this action does require compliance with the following existing OMB collections: 1117–0003, 1117–0004, 1117–0006, 1117–0008, 1117–0009, 1117–0010, 1117–0012, 1117–0014, 1117–0021, 1117–0023, 1117–0029, and 1117–0056. 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.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

On the basis of information contained in the “Regulatory Flexibility Act” section above, DEA has determined pursuant to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*) that this final rule would not result in any Federal mandate that may result “in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100,000,000 or more (adjusted annually for inflation) in any 1 year . . . .” Therefore, neither a Small Government Agency Plan nor any other action is required under UMRA of 1995.

Congressional Review Act

This order is not a major rule as defined by the Congressional Review

Act (CRA), 5 U.S.C. 804. However, DEA is submitting reports under the CRA to both Houses of Congress and to the Comptroller General.

List of Subjects in 21 CFR Part 1308

Administrative practice and procedure, Drug traffic control, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set out above, DEA amends 21 CFR part 1308 as follows:

PART 1308—SCHEDULES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- 1. The authority citation for 21 CFR part 1308 continues to read as follows:  
**Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 811, 812, 871(b), 956(b), unless otherwise noted.
  - 2. In § 1308.11:
    - a. Redesignate paragraphs (b)(76) through (117) as paragraphs (b)(78) through (119);
    - b. Redesignate paragraphs (b)(72) through (75) as paragraphs (b)(73) through (76);
    - c. Add new paragraphs (b)(72), (77); and
    - h. Remove and reserve paragraphs (h)(68) and (h)(69).
- The additions to read as follows:

§ 1308.11 Schedule I.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
(b) \* \* \*

	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
(72) <i>N</i> -Desethyl isotonitazene ( <i>N</i> -ethyl-2-(2-(4-isopropoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl)ethan-1-amine) .....							9760
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
(77) <i>N</i> -Piperidinyl etonitazene (2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole (other names: etonitazepipne) .....							9761
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

\* \* \* \*

Signing Authority

This document of the Drug Enforcement Administration was signed on December 17, 2025, by Administrator Terrance Cole. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DEA. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DEA Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of DEA. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this

document upon publication in the Federal Register.

Leslie Mayer,  
Federal Register Liaison Officer, Drug Enforcement Administration.  
[FR Doc. 2025–23717 Filed 12–22–25; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4410–09–P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Part 4044

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age; Missing Participants Mortality Assumption

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation’s regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans by substituting a

<sup>7</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521.

new table for determining expected retirement ages for participants in pension plans undergoing distress or involuntary termination with valuation dates falling in 2026. This table is needed to compute the value of early retirement benefits and, thus, the total value of benefits under a plan. This rule also provides the mortality assumption for use with PBGC's missing participants program for determination dates in 2026.

**DATES:** This rule is effective January 1, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Andrew Wilson ([wilson.andrew1@pbgc.gov](mailto:wilson.andrew1@pbgc.gov)), Attorney (202–860–8354), or Joseph Krettek ([krettek.joseph@pbgc.gov](mailto:krettek.joseph@pbgc.gov)), Assistant General Counsel (202–229–6772), Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024–2101. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7–1–1 to access telecommunications relay services.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) administers the pension plan termination insurance program under title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044) sets forth (in subpart B) the methods for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered under title IV. Guaranteed benefits and benefit liabilities under a plan that is undergoing a distress termination must be valued in accordance with subpart B of part 4044. In addition, when PBGC terminates an underfunded plan involuntarily pursuant to ERISA section 4042(a), it uses the subpart B valuation rules to determine the amount of the plan's underfunding.

*Expected Retirement Age Low, Medium, High Tables*

Under § 4044.51(b) of the asset allocation regulation, early retirement benefits are valued based on the annuity starting date, if a retirement date has been selected, or the expected retirement age, if the annuity starting date is not known on the valuation date. Sections 4044.55 through 4044.58 set forth rules for determining the expected retirement ages for plan participants entitled to early retirement benefits. Section 4044.58 contains tables to be

used in determining the expected early retirement ages.<sup>1</sup>

Table I to § 4044.58 (Selection of Retirement Rate Category) is used to determine whether a participant has a low, medium, or high probability of retiring early. The determination is based on the year a participant would reach “unreduced retirement age” (URA) (*i.e.*, the earlier of the normal retirement age or the age at which an unreduced benefit is first payable) and the participant's monthly benefit at the unreduced retirement age. The table applies only to plans with valuation dates in the current year and is updated annually by PBGC to reflect changes in the cost of living.

Tables II–A, II–B, and II–C (Expected Retirement Ages for Individuals in the Low, Medium, and High Categories respectively) are used to determine the expected retirement age after the probability of early retirement has been determined using Table I. These tables establish, by probability category, the expected retirement age based on both the earliest age a participant could retire under the plan and the unreduced retirement age. This expected retirement age is used to compute the value of the early retirement benefit and, thus, the total value of benefits under the plan.

This document amends § 4044.58 to replace Table I–25 with Table I–26 to provide an updated correlation, appropriate for calendar year 2026, between the amount of a participant's benefit and the probability that the participant will elect early retirement. Table I–26 will be used to value benefits in plans with valuation dates during calendar year 2026.

*Missing Participants Mortality Assumptions*

PBGC's regulation on Missing Participants (29 CFR part 4050) provides that the mortality assumption used to determine certain amounts to be transferred on behalf of a missing participant from a terminating defined benefit plan to PBGC is the mortality table in § 4044.53(h). The table currently provides the mortality assumption for benefit determination dates on or after July 31, 2024, but before January 1,

<sup>1</sup> In June 2024, PBGC issued a final rule at 89 FR 48291 updating the interest, mortality, and expense assumptions used to determine the present value of a single-employer plan's benefits when it terminates in a distress or involuntary termination. This rule moved the expected retirement ages tables from Appendix D in part 4044 to § 4044.58.

2026.<sup>2</sup> This rule updates the table to provide the mortality assumption for benefit determination dates in 2026.

**Compliance With Regulatory Requirements**

PBGC has determined that notice of, and public comment on, this rule are impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest. PBGC's update of § 4044.58 and § 4044.53(h) for calendar year 2026 are routine. If a plan has a valuation date in 2026, the plan administrator needs the updated table in § 4044.58 being promulgated in this rule to value benefits. Similarly, if a plan is transferring amounts on behalf of missing participants under part 4050, the plan administrator needs the updated mortality table in § 4044.53(h) for benefit determination dates in 2026. Accordingly, PBGC finds that the public interest is best served by issuing these tables expeditiously, without an opportunity for notice and comment, and that good cause exists for making the table set forth in this amendment effective less than 30 days after publication to allow the use of the proper tables to determine the value benefits for dates in early 2026.

PBGC has determined that this action is not a “significant regulatory action” under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Because no general notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this regulation, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply (5 U.S.C. 601(2)).

**List of Subjects in 29 CFR Part 4044**

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR part 4044 is amended as follows:

**PART 4044—ALLOCATION OF ASSETS IN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 4044 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 29 U.S.C. 1301(a), 1302(b)(3), 1341, 1344, 1362.

■ 2. Amend § 4044.53 by revising table 4 to paragraph (h) to read as follows:

**§ 4044.53 Mortality assumptions.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(h) \* \* \*

<sup>2</sup> PBGC's June 2024 final rule does not apply to calculations where the valuation date is before July 31, 2024.

TABLE 4 TO PARAGRAPH (h)—MISSING PARTICIPANTS UNISEX MORTALITY TABLE

Age	Benefit determination dates in 2024	Benefit determination dates in 2025	Benefit determination dates in 2026
0 .....	0.00207	0.00204	0.00202
1 .....	0.00015	0.00014	0.00014
2 .....	0.00010	0.00009	0.00009
3 .....	0.00008	0.00007	0.00007
4 .....	0.00006	0.00006	0.00006
5 .....	0.00006	0.00005	0.00005
6 .....	0.00005	0.00005	0.00005
7 .....	0.00005	0.00005	0.00005
8 .....	0.00004	0.00004	0.00004
9 .....	0.00004	0.00004	0.00003
10 .....	0.00004	0.00004	0.00004
11 .....	0.00004	0.00004	0.00004
12 .....	0.00005	0.00005	0.00005
13 .....	0.00006	0.00006	0.00006
14 .....	0.00008	0.00007	0.00007
15 .....	0.00009	0.00009	0.00008
16 .....	0.00010	0.00010	0.00010
17 .....	0.00012	0.00012	0.00012
18 .....	0.00014	0.00014	0.00014
19 .....	0.00016	0.00015	0.00015
20 .....	0.00016	0.00016	0.00016
21 .....	0.00017	0.00016	0.00016
22 .....	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017
23 .....	0.00018	0.00018	0.00018
24 .....	0.00019	0.00019	0.00019
25 .....	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019
26 .....	0.00021	0.00020	0.00020
27 .....	0.00022	0.00021	0.00021
28 .....	0.00023	0.00022	0.00022
29 .....	0.00023	0.00023	0.00023
30 .....	0.00025	0.00025	0.00024
31 .....	0.00026	0.00026	0.00026
32 .....	0.00028	0.00027	0.00027
33 .....	0.00030	0.00030	0.00030
34 .....	0.00032	0.00031	0.00031
35 .....	0.00034	0.00034	0.00033
36 .....	0.00036	0.00036	0.00035
37 .....	0.00038	0.00038	0.00037
38 .....	0.00040	0.00040	0.00039
39 .....	0.00043	0.00042	0.00041
40 .....	0.00044	0.00044	0.00043
41 .....	0.00046	0.00045	0.00044
42 .....	0.00048	0.00047	0.00046
43 .....	0.00049	0.00049	0.00048
44 .....	0.00052	0.00051	0.00050
45 .....	0.00054	0.00053	0.00052
46 .....	0.00058	0.00057	0.00056
47 .....	0.00061	0.00060	0.00059
48 .....	0.00065	0.00064	0.00064
49 .....	0.00070	0.00069	0.00068
50 .....	0.00076	0.00076	0.00075
51 .....	0.00085	0.00084	0.00083
52 .....	0.00095	0.00094	0.00092
53 .....	0.00106	0.00105	0.00103
54 .....	0.00120	0.00118	0.00117
55 .....	0.00143	0.00141	0.00139
56 .....	0.00177	0.00174	0.00172
57 .....	0.00205	0.00202	0.00200
58 .....	0.00239	0.00235	0.00232
59 .....	0.00276	0.00273	0.00269
60 .....	0.00321	0.00317	0.00313
61 .....	0.00370	0.00365	0.00360
62 .....	0.00441	0.00434	0.00428
63 .....	0.00514	0.00507	0.00500
64 .....	0.00577	0.00570	0.00562
65 .....	0.00658	0.00650	0.00641
66 .....	0.00748	0.00738	0.00729
67 .....	0.00834	0.00823	0.00813
68 .....	0.00928	0.00916	0.00904
69 .....	0.01034	0.01021	0.01008

TABLE 4 TO PARAGRAPH (h)—MISSING PARTICIPANTS UNISEX MORTALITY TABLE—Continued

Age	Benefit determination dates in 2024	Benefit determination dates in 2025	Benefit determination dates in 2026
70 .....	0.01155	0.01141	0.01127
71 .....	0.01294	0.01278	0.01262
72 .....	0.01452	0.01435	0.01417
73 .....	0.01631	0.01611	0.01592
74 .....	0.01837	0.01815	0.01794
75 .....	0.02073	0.02049	0.02025
76 .....	0.02345	0.02317	0.02291
77 .....	0.02656	0.02626	0.02596
78 .....	0.03012	0.02979	0.02945
79 .....	0.03417	0.03382	0.03345
80 .....	0.03899	0.03862	0.03823
81 .....	0.04395	0.04356	0.04315
82 .....	0.04959	0.04916	0.04872
83 .....	0.05595	0.05549	0.05502
84 .....	0.06317	0.06267	0.06217
85 .....	0.07138	0.07083	0.07029
86 .....	0.08063	0.08005	0.07947
87 .....	0.09107	0.09044	0.08982
88 .....	0.10286	0.10220	0.10154
89 .....	0.11596	0.11526	0.11457
90 .....	0.13036	0.12962	0.12889
91 .....	0.14540	0.14463	0.14387
92 .....	0.16090	0.16012	0.15933
93 .....	0.17679	0.17601	0.17522
94 .....	0.19284	0.19206	0.19127
95 .....	0.20898	0.20822	0.20745
96 .....	0.22620	0.22545	0.22467
97 .....	0.24386	0.24311	0.24234
98 .....	0.26196	0.26123	0.26048
99 .....	0.28059	0.27986	0.27912
100 .....	0.29960	0.29887	0.29814
101 .....	0.31891	0.31817	0.31746
102 .....	0.33825	0.33748	0.33676
103 .....	0.35757	0.35673	0.35595
104 .....	0.37670	0.37583	0.37502
105 .....	0.39521	0.39436	0.39354
106 .....	0.41327	0.41245	0.41166
107 .....	0.43080	0.42999	0.42921
108 .....	0.44743	0.44667	0.44595
109 .....	0.46339	0.46271	0.46204
110 .....	0.47628	0.47568	0.47508
111 .....	0.48468	0.48417	0.48366
112 .....	0.49268	0.49226	0.49184
113 .....	0.49666	0.49634	0.49602
114 .....	0.49795	0.49773	0.49751
115 .....	0.49928	0.49915	0.49903
116 .....	0.49960	0.49953	0.49945
117 .....	0.49978	0.49973	0.49968
118 .....	0.49995	0.49993	0.49990
119 .....	0.50000	0.50000	0.50000
120 .....	1.00000	1.00000	1.00000

■ 3. Amend § 4044.58 by revising table 1 to the section to read as follows:

**§ 4044.58 Tables used to determine expected retirement age.**

\* \* \* \* \*

TABLE 1 TO § 4044.58—TABLE I-26—SELECTION OF RETIREMENT RATE CATEGORY

[For valuation dates in 2026 <sup>1</sup>]

If participant reaches URA in year—	Participant's retirement rate category is—			
	Low <sup>2</sup> if monthly benefit at URA is less than—	Medium <sup>3</sup> if monthly benefit at URA is—		High <sup>4</sup> if monthly benefit at URA is greater than—
		From—	To—	
2027 .....	849	849	3,587	3,587
2028 .....	869	869	3,670	3,670



TABLE 1 TO § 4044.58—TABLE I-26—SELECTION OF RETIREMENT RATE CATEGORY—Continued  
[For valuation dates in 2026 <sup>1</sup>]

If participant reaches URA in year—	Participant's retirement rate category is—			
	Low <sup>2</sup> if monthly benefit at URA is less than—	Medium <sup>3</sup> if monthly benefit at URA is—		High <sup>4</sup> if monthly benefit at URA is greater than—
		From—	To—	
2029 .....	888	888	3,750	3,750
2030 .....	908	908	3,833	3,833
2031 .....	928	928	3,917	3,917
2032 .....	948	948	4,003	4,003
2033 .....	969	969	4,092	4,092
2034 .....	990	990	4,182	4,182
2035 .....	1,012	1,012	4,274	4,274
2036 or later .....	1,034	1,034	4,368	4,368

<sup>1</sup> Applicable tables for valuation dates before 2026 are available on PBGC's website ([www.pbgc.gov](http://www.pbgc.gov)).<sup>2</sup> Table II—A.<sup>3</sup> Table II—B.<sup>4</sup> Table II—C.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Joseph Krettek,***Assistant General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 2025–23799 Filed 12–22–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7709–02–P

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY****Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 165****[Docket Number USCG–2025–1110]****RIN 1625–AA00****Safety Zone; West of Cyril E. King Airport, St. Thomas, VI****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone in the vicinity of the waters off the Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas, USVI. This action is necessary to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards created by the proximity of low flying aircrafts. Entry of vessels or persons into this zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector San Juan.

**DATES:** This rule is effective from January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** To view available documents go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for USCG–2025–1110.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions about this rule,

contact Lieutenant Commander Rachel E. Thomas, Sector San Juan, Waterways Management Division Chief, Coast Guard; telephone (571) 613–1417, email [Rachel.E.Thomas@uscg.mil](mailto:Rachel.E.Thomas@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**

On August 25, 2025, the Coast Guard established a temporary final rule establishing a safety zone for the runway of Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas, USVI.<sup>1</sup> The Coast Guard originally published the temporary final rule to be effective through September 30, 2025. Later in October 2025 we promulgated a temporary interim rule to keep the zone open until December 31, 2025.<sup>2</sup> We are now implementing another temporary safety zone until March 31, 2026, to provide an opportunity for comment before we establish a permanent safety zone. The Captain of the Port (COTP) San Juan has determined that potential hazards associated low flying aircrafts to vessels in the vicinity of the waters off the Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas, USVI includes wake turbulence, collision risk, restricted visibility, and emergency maneuvers. Therefore, the COTP is issuing this rule under the authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034, which is needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the

marine environment in the navigable waters within the safety zone.

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule without prior notice and comment. As is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this temporary rule because there is an immediate need to mitigate the risk of vessels transiting between private port authority managed yellow buoys and the end of the St. Thomas Cyril E. King runway due to the proximity to low flying aircrafts. Prompt action is needed to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with vessels transiting in the proximity of the runway of Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas, USVI. It is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to publish an NPRM because we must establish this safety zone by January 1, 2026.

For the same reasons, the Coast Guard finds that under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

**III. Discussion of the Rule**

This rule establishes a temporary safety zone for navigable waters west of the Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. This temporary rule is effective through March 31, 2026, to give an opportunity for comment before the Coast Guard establishes a permanent safety zone. The temporary safety zone covers all navigable waters within 400 yards from shore directly west of the airport's runway within the two private port authority managed yellow buoys. No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative. No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the

<sup>1</sup> 90 FR 41301.<sup>2</sup> 90 FR 52565.