

fewer opiate positives having to be reviewed by medical review officers. The rule has also been analyzed in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612, and it has been determined that it does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Issuance of Final Rule Without Opportunity for Notice and Comment

With respect to the amendments to 49 CFR Part 40 concerning opiate testing levels, the Department has determined that it would be impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest to provide an opportunity for notice and comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b). These amendments are conforming amendments making the Department's drug testing procedures consistent with those of DHHS, as is required under the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. Before publishing its amendments to the DHHS Guidelines, DHHS solicited, received, and responded to public comment on the identical provisions. Since there has already been an opportunity for public comment on the substance of the changes and consistency is necessary to avoid confusion in the testing process, the Secretary finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) for the final rule to be effective less than 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no new information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq).

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

The Department has determined that the requirements of Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 do not apply to this rulemaking.

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 40

Drug testing, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Safety, Transportation.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Office of the Secretary amends 49 CFR Part 40 as follows:

PART 40—PROCEDURES FOR TRANSPORTATION WORKPLACE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAMS

1. The authority citation for Part 40 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 102, 301, 322; 49 U.S.C. App. 1301 nt., app. 1434 nt., app. 2717., app. 1618a.

§ 40.29 [Amended]

2. In section 40.29(e)(1), the initial test level for opiates appearing in the table is amended by revising the value "300" to "2000" and deleting the footnote "*" that had specified a 25 ng/ml testing level if the immunoassay test was specific for free morphine.

3. In section 40.29(f)(1), the confirmatory test level for morphine appearing in the table is amended by revising the value from "300" to "2000".

4. In section 40.29(f)(1), the confirmatory test level for codeine appearing in the table is amended by revising the value from "300" to "2000".

5. In section 40.29(f)(1), the table is amended by adding a new line under opiates to read as follows:

§ 40.29 Laboratory analysis procedures.

	Confirmatory test cutoff levels (ng/ml)
* * * * *	
6-Acetylmorphine ⁴	10 ng/ml.
* * * * *	

⁴ Test for 6-AM when morphine concentration exceeds 2,000 ng/ml.

Issued this 17th day of November, 1998, at Washington, D.C.

Rodney E. Slater,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 230

[I.D. 022398A]

Whaling Provisions: Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Quotas

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

ACTION: Revision of aboriginal subsistence whaling quota.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Government and Russian Federation have concluded bilateral arrangements to ensure that the quotas for bowhead whales and gray

whales set at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission are not exceeded. In response, NMFS is revising the 1998 quota for bowhead whales from 77 bowhead whales struck to 75 bowhead whales struck. The gray whale quota for 1998 remains 5 gray whales landed. The revised bowhead quota will govern the harvest of bowhead whales by members of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Corson, (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: So that the 1998 quota of bowhead strikes is not exceeded, the Russian natives may use no more than 7 strikes, and the Alaska Eskimos may use no more than 75 strikes. Each side will ensure that the numbers specified in this paragraph for its native group are not exceeded. The two sides plan to confer on monitoring of the 1999 quota, including any strikes that may be carried forward from 1998.

Likewise, so that the 1998 quota of gray whales is not exceeded, the bilateral arrangements concluded that the Makah Indian Tribe may take no more than five gray whales, and the Russian natives may take no more than 135 gray whales. Each side will ensure that the numbers specified in this paragraph for its native group are not exceeded. The two sides plan to confer on monitoring of the 1999 quota.

Dated: November 16, 1998.

Rolland A. Schmitten,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 111698D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bycatch Rate Standards for the First Half of 1999

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

ACTION: Pacific halibut and red king crab bycatch rate standards; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the Pacific halibut and red king crab bycatch rate standards for the first half of 1999.