

documents used to verify the identity of customers. In particular:

1. Should the regulations require financial institutions to make and maintain a photocopy of identification documents upon which the financial institution relies to verify identity in all cases?

2. Should the regulations identify specific instances in which photocopies of documents relied upon must be made and maintained?

3. Should the regulations provide guidance to financial institutions concerning risk factors indicating when photocopying identification documents relied upon may be appropriate?

The views of law enforcement, the industry, and others are sought, even if such views have been expressed previously in connection with the proposed rulemakings. This inquiry focuses on the recordkeeping requirements when a financial institution relies on documents to verify identity.

B. Documentary Verification of the Identity of Foreign Individuals

Under the risk-based approach of both the proposed and final rules, to the extent documents are used, financial institutions are given some discretion to determine which documentary forms of identification may be used to verify the identity of foreign individuals who seek to open an account. First, the final rules require financial institutions to obtain an identification number from all customers. For a non-U.S. person, an institution must obtain one or more of the following: a taxpayer identification number (social security number, individual taxpayer identification number, or employer identification number); passport number and country of issuance; alien identification card number; or number and country of issuance of any other government-issued document evidencing nationality or residence and bearing a photograph or similar safeguard. Noting the absence of a uniform, standard identification number that non-U.S. persons could provide to financial institutions,⁵ Treasury and the federal functional regulators permitted financial institutions to choose among a variety of identification numbers that it may accept from a non-U.S. person, provided that the identifying information the institution accepts must permit the institution to form a reasonable belief

that it knows the true identity of the customer.

Second, financial institutions must set forth the types of documentary identification that they will accept to verify identity. Financial institutions are encouraged to use multiple forms of identification to minimize risks. The final rules provide an illustrative list of identification documents that may be used. For an individual, these may include an unexpired government-issued identification evidencing nationality or residence and bearing a photograph or similar safeguard, such as a driver's license or passport.

Treasury and the federal functional regulators emphasized that the final rules neither endorsed nor prohibited a financial institution's acceptance of particular types of identification documents issued by foreign governments. Instead, a financial institution must decide for itself, based upon consideration of the appropriate risk factors, whether the information presented by a customer is reliable.

Ensuring the appropriate identification of all persons opening accounts at financial institutions, including non-U.S. citizens, is a significant goal of the final regulations. Therefore, Treasury seeks additional comment on whether there are situations in which the regulations should preclude reliance on certain forms of foreign government-issued identification to verify customer identity. The regulations presently rely on financial institutions to determine which forms of foreign-issued identification to accept and under what circumstances, in light of the risks associated with each form of identification.

1. Should the regulations preclude financial institutions' reliance on certain forms of identification issued by certain foreign governments?

2. Should the regulations require financial institutions to obtain a passport number from all customers who are non-U.S. citizens?

a. What are the anticipated effects on non-U.S. citizens in the United States who are not required to have a passport?

b. What are the anticipated effects on non-U.S. citizens who open accounts from abroad, and thus are not required to have a passport?

3. Is there sufficient empirical information to enable Treasury to assess the utility of the various forms of foreign-issued identification for purposes of accurately identifying the holder?

4. What would the impact be on the use of the conventional financial system if financial institutions were prohibited

from accepting certain forms of government-issued identification?

The views of law enforcement, the industry, and others are sought, even if such views have been expressed previously in connection with the proposed rulemakings.

The purpose of this Notice of Inquiry is to solicit further comment on the two issues outlined above and to enhance the administrative record. Only after considering all comments received in response to this notice of inquiry will Treasury determine whether to discuss with the federal functional regulators if it would be appropriate to jointly propose amendments to the final rules published on May 9, 2003, through a notice of proposed rulemaking. Financial institutions covered by the final rules are reminded of their obligation to be in compliance with the final rules by October 1, 2003.

III. Procedural Requirements

This document has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget as a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

Dated: June 25, 2003.

David D. Aufhauser,
General Counsel.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[TX-122-1-7613; FRL-7520-8]

Determination of Nonattainment as of November 15, 1996, and November 15, 1999, and Reclassification of the Beaumont/Port Arthur Ozone Nonattainment Area; State of Texas; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency is extending the comment period for a proposed action published Thursday, June 19, 2003 (68 FR 36756). On June 19, 2003, the EPA: proposed to withdraw our final approval of BPA's 2007 attainment demonstration State Implementation Plan (SIP), the motor vehicle emission budget (MVEB), the mid-course review commitment (MCR), our finding that BPA implemented all RACM; and withdrew the extension of the attainment date to 2007 and our

⁵ Treasury previously issued a report to Congress discussing the absence of a single identification number for non-U.S. persons. See Treasury Department, "A Report to Congress in Accordance with Section 326(b) of the USA PATRIOT Act," October 21, 2002.

approval of the transport demonstration. Further, we proposed to issue a finding that BPA has failed to attain the 1-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) by November 15, 1996, the attainment date for moderate nonattainment areas set forth in the Act. If EPA takes final action on this finding of failure to attain, the area would be reclassified as "serious" and if EPA issues a final notice of reclassification of the area to serious, EPA proposed in the alternative two options for identifying the appropriate attainment date for the area. Under Option 1, EPA proposed an additional finding that the area failed to attain the 1-hour ozone standard by November 15, 1999, the attainment date for serious nonattainment areas. If EPA takes final action on this finding, the area would therefore be reclassified as a severe 1-hour ozone nonattainment area, with an attainment date of no later than November 15, 2005. Alternatively, under Option 2, the EPA is proposing to reclassify BPA to a serious 1-hour ozone nonattainment area, and retain that classification with an attainment date of no later than November 15, 2005, thereby giving the State a prospective opportunity as a serious area to attain the standard. Under either alternative, we proposed the schedule for Texas to submit a revised SIP, a new MVEB, and a re-analysis of RACM. We further proposed to adjust the dates by which the area must meet the rate-of-progress (ROP) requirements and adjust contingency measure requirements as they relate to the ROP requirements.

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) submitted a letter requesting a 30-day extension to the comment period. SETRPC stated they need that time to solicit and develop meaningful comments due to the magnitude and significant ramifications of the proposed decision. At the request of the SETRPC, the EPA is extending the comment period for 30 days.

DATES: The comment period is extended until August 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this action can be mailed to Mr. Thomas H. Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733 or e-mailed to diggs.thomas@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Pratt, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Telephone Number (214) 665-2140, e-mail Address: pratt.steven@epa.gov.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen oxides, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: June 23, 2003.

Richard E. Greene,

Regional Administrator, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 03-16582 Filed 6-30-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

44 CFR Part 67

[Docket No. FEMA-P-7633]

Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: Technical information or comments are requested on the proposed Base (1% annual-chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs) and proposed BFE modifications for the communities listed below. The BFEs and modified BFEs are the basis for the floodplain management measures that the community is required either to adopt or to show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

DATES: The comment period is ninety (90) days following the second publication of this proposed rule in a newspaper of local circulation in each community.

ADDRESSES: The proposed BFEs for each community are available for inspection at the office of the Chief Executive Officer of each community. The respective addresses are listed in the table below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Jean Pajak, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2831.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Emergency Management Agency makes the final determinations listed below for the modified BFEs for each

community listed. These modified elevations have been published in newspapers of local circulation and ninety (90) days have elapsed since that publication. The Mitigation Division Director of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate has resolved any appeals resulting from this notification.

These proposed BFEs and modified BFEs, together with the floodplain management criteria required by 44 CFR 60.3, are the minimum that are required. They should not be construed to mean that the community must change any existing ordinances that are more stringent in their floodplain management requirements. The community may at any time enact stricter requirements of its own, or pursuant to policies established by other Federal, State, or regional entities. These proposed elevations are used to meet the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP and are also used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings built after these elevations are made final, and for the contents in these buildings.

National Environmental Policy Act.

This proposed rule is categorically excluded from the requirements of 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Consideration. No environmental impact assessment has been prepared.

Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Mitigation Division Director of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate certifies that this rule is exempt from the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because modified base flood elevations are required by the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4105, and are required to maintain community eligibility in the NFIP. No regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared.

Regulatory Classification. This proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action under the criteria of Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993, Regulatory Planning and Review, 58 FR 51735.

Executive Order 12612, Federalism. This proposed rule involves no policies that have federalism implications under Executive Order 12612, Federalism, dated October 26, 1987.

Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. This proposed rule meets the applicable standards of Section 2(b)(2) of Executive Order 12778.

List of Subjects in 44 CFR Part 67

Administrative practice and procedure, Flood insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.