on the distribution of property to petitioners. The expense for such assistance shall be paid out of the forfeited funds.

(4) Other agencies of the United States. Where another agency of the United States is entitled to remission or mitigation of forfeited assets because of an interest that is recognizable under this part or is eligible for such transfer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 981(e)(6), such agency shall request the transfer in writing, in addition to complying with any applicable provisions of paragraphs (c) through (e) of this section. The decision to make such transfer shall be made in writing by the Ruling Official.

(5) Financial institution regulatory agencies. A Ruling Official may direct the transfer of property under 18 U.S.C. 981(e) to certain Federal financial institution regulatory agencies or an entity acting in their behalf, upon receipt of a written request, in lieu of ruling on a petition for remission or mitigation.

(6) Transfers to foreign governments. A Ruling Official may decline to grant remission to any petitioner other than an owner or lienholder so that forfeited assets may be transferred to a foreign government pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 981(i)(1); 19 U.S.C. 1616a(c)(2); or 21 U.S.C. 881(e)(1)(E).

(7) Filing by attorneys. (i) A petition for remission or mitigation may be filed by a petitioner or by that person’s attorney or legal guardian. If an attorney files on behalf of the petitioner, the petition must include a signed and sworn statement by the client-petitioner stating that:

(A) The attorney has the authority to represent the petitioner in this proceeding; 

(B) The petitioner has fully reviewed the petition; and 

(C) The petition is truthful and accurate in every respect.

(ii) Verbal notification of representation is not acceptable. Responses and notification of rulings shall not be sent to an attorney claiming to represent a petitioner unless a written notice of representation is filed. No extensions of time shall be granted due to delays in submission of the notice of representation.

(8) Consolidated petitions. At the discretion of the Ruling Official in individual cases, a petition may be filed by one petitioner on behalf of other petitioners, provided the petitions are based on similar underlying facts, and the petitioner who files the petition has written authority to do so on behalf of other petitioners. This authority must be either expressed in documents giving the petitioner the authority to file petitions for remission, or reasonably implied from documents giving the petitioner express authority to file claims or lawsuits related to the course of conduct in question on behalf of these petitioners. An insurer or an administrator of an employee benefit plan, for example, which itself has standing to file a petition as a “victim” within the meaning of paragraph (b)(22) of this section, may also file a petition on behalf of its insured or plan beneficiaries for any claims they may have based on co-payments made to the perpetrator of the offense underlying the forfeiture, or the perpetrator of a “related offense” within the meaning of paragraph (b)(20), if the authority to file claims or lawsuits is contained in the document or documents establishing the plan. Where such a petition is filed, any amounts granted as remission must be transferred to the other petitioners, not the party filing the petition; although, as a matter of discretion, the Ruling Official may use the actual petitioner as an intermediary for transferring the amounts authorized as a remission to the other petitioners.

§ 233.10 [Removed and Reserved]

5. Section 233.10 is removed and reserved.

Stanley F. Mires, Attorney, Legal Policy & Legislative Advice.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[WC Docket Nos. 11–42, 03–109, 12–23 and CC Docket No. 96–45; FCC 12–11]

Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved, for a period of six months, the information collection requirements contained in the Commission’s rules at 47 CFR Sections 54.202(a), 54.401(d), 54.403, 54.404, 54.405(c) as it applies to the certification form, 54.405(e) except the portion of paragraph (4) relating to temporary address de-enrollment, 54.407, 54.410(a) through (f), 54.416, 54.417, 54.420(b), and 54.422. Under 5 CFR §1320, an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a current, valid OMB Control Number.

No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

49 CFR Chapter II

[Docket No. FRA–2009–0057, Notice No. 3]

Statement of Agency Policy and Interpretation on the Hours of Service Laws as Amended; Delay of Effective Date of One Specific Interpretation

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Statement of agency policy and interpretation; delay of effective date.

SUMMARY: This document delays the effective date of section FRA’s statement of agency policy and interpretation on the hours of service laws that was published in the Federal Register on February 29, 2012, and that is scheduled to take effect on May 29, 2012. In response to the document, several issues were brought to FRA’s attention with regard to the feasibility of implementing one of the interpretations by the May 29, 2012 effective date. In response to those concerns, the present document delays the effective date of that specific interpretation until January 1, 2013. However, a railroad may choose to comply with the interpretation on or after May 29, 2012, and in advance of its new January 1, 2013, effective date. The effective date of all other interpretations contained in the February 29, 2012, statement remains May 29, 2012.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 29, 2012, FRA published its statement of agency policy and interpretation on the hours of service laws as amended (Final Interpretations), responding to public comments on FRA’s earlier interim statement of policy, 74 FR 30665 (June 26, 2009), and clarifying additional questions concerning the hours of service laws. 77 FR 12408. In the Final Interpretations, FRA construed the word “day” for purposes of the statutory limitation on the number of consecutive days on which certain employees may initiate an on-duty period before being required to receive a certain rest period (i.e., 49 U.S.C. 21103(a)(4) [sec. 21103(a)(4)]. In the Final Interpretations, FRA interpreted the word “day” for purposes of sec. 21103(a)(4) to refer to the 24-hour period ending when an employee is finally released from duty, and any new initiation of an on-duty period at any point during the 24-hour period following the employee’s prior final release will have been initiated on a day consecutive to the prior duty tour. This interpretation differed from the interpretation of what constitutes a “day” that was articulated in the interim statement of policy, which construed a “day” for the purposes of section 21103(a)(4) as a calendar day. FRA’s interim interpretations went into effect on July 16, 2009, and they have remained in effect. The Final Interpretations are scheduled to go into effect on May 29, 2012.

In response to the Final Interpretations, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) requested a meeting with FRA. The meeting took place on April 4, 2012, and included the AAR as well as several railroads in teleconference. At the meeting, FRA...