

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 97.022, "Flood Insurance.")

James A. Walke,

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

49 CFR Part 209

[Docket No. FRA-2004-17530, Notice No. 3]

RIN 2130-ZA11

Minimum and Ordinary Maximum and Aggravated Maximum Civil Monetary Penalties for a Violation of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Laws or Regulations, Orders, Special Permits, or Approvals Under Those Laws

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: FRA is revising its regulations to reflect amendments to certain statutory civil monetary penalty provisions effected by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), which was enacted on July 6, 2012. These statutory amendments became effective on October 1, 2012. Pursuant to the Act, FRA is eliminating the minimum penalty for other than a training violation and adjusting both the ordinary maximum penalty and the aggravated maximum penalty that applies when assessing a civil monetary penalty for a violation of the Federal hazardous materials transportation laws or a regulation, special permit, or approval issued under those laws. FRA is also revising references to these minimums and maximums in its civil penalty assessment guidelines to conform to these statutory changes.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This rule is effective February 12, 2013.

Applicability Date: This final rule applies to all violations of the Federal hazardous materials transportation laws or a regulation, order, special permit, or approval issued under those laws that occur on or after October 1, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph St. Peter, Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Chief

Counsel, RCC-12, Mail Stop 10, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20590 (telephone 202-493-6047), *joseph.st.peter@dot.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Amendments to the Statutory Civil Penalty Provisions

Title III of Division C of MAP-21 (Pub. L. 112-141)—the Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2012—revises the maximum and minimum civil penalties for violation of Federal hazardous materials transportation laws at 49 U.S.C. ch. 51 (Federal hazmat laws) or a regulation, order, special permit, or approval issued under the Federal hazmat laws (including the regulations at 49 CFR subtitle B, chapter I, subchapters A (Hazardous Materials and Oil Transportation) and C (Hazardous Materials Regulations)). See Sec. 33010 of MAP-21, amending 49 U.S.C. 5123. FRA is revising all references to the maximum and minimum civil penalties in its regulations and guidelines in order to reflect the following statutory changes:

- The maximum civil penalty was increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for a knowing violation and from \$100,000 to \$175,000 if the violation results in death, serious illness or severe injury to any person, or substantial destruction of property.
- The minimum civil penalty of \$250 was eliminated, except that a minimum civil penalty of \$450 still applies to a violation related to training.

Revisions to Civil Penalty Assessment Guidelines

FRA's hazardous material transportation enforcement civil penalty guidelines are published in appendix B to 49 CFR part 209, to provide the regulated community and the general public with information concerning the manner in which FRA generally begins its hazmat penalty assessment process and the types of information that respondents in enforcement cases should provide to justify reduction of proposed penalties. These guidelines were first published in the **Federal Register** on July 25, 1996 in response to a request contained in Senate Report 103-150 that accompanied the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1994. 61 FR 38644. These guidelines are periodically updated, and FRA most recently published revisions to them on July 27, 2010, pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act

of 1990, as amended (28 U.S.C. 2461, note). 75 FR 43840.

In this final rule, FRA is revising all references to the maximum and minimum civil penalties published in appendix B to 49 CFR part 209 in order to reflect the statutory changes of MAP-21.

Statutory Authority

This final rule is published under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 5123, which provides civil penalties for violations of the Federal hazmat laws or a regulation, order, special permit, or approval issued under those laws. The hazardous material transportation regulations are issued by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. 49 CFR 1.97(b). Responsibility for the enforcement of the Federal hazmat laws and regulations primarily in instances where violations involve railroads and those entities that ship by rail has been delegated to FRA. 49 CFR 1.89(j). This rule revises references in FRA's regulations to reflect revisions to the civil penalty provisions in the Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2012. The amendments to the statutory provisions became effective on October 1, 2012, and FRA is implementing these amendments within respect to violations that occur on or after that date.

Public Participation

FRA is proceeding to a final rule without providing a notice of proposed rulemaking or an opportunity for public comment. Public comment is unnecessary because, in making these revisions, FRA is not exercising discretion in a way that could be informed by public comment. As such, notice and comment procedures are "impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest" within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B). FRA is issuing these revisions as a final rule applicable to all hazardous material civil penalty cases under its authority to cite for violations that occur on or after October 1, 2012.

Regulatory Impact

A. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

This final rule has been evaluated in accordance with existing policies and procedures and determined to be non-significant under Executive Orders 12866 and 13563. Accordingly, this final rule was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB). Further, this rule is not a significant regulatory action under the Regulatory Policies and Procedures of the DOT because it is limited to a ministerial act on which the agency has no discretion. 44 FR 11034. The economic impact of the final rule is minimal to the extent that preparation of a regulatory evaluation is not warranted.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act and Executive Order 13272

FRA certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This rule applies to shippers and carriers of hazardous material and persons who manufacture, mark, certify, or sell packagings, containers, and packaging components as qualified for use in transporting hazardous materials in commerce, some of whom are small entities. However, there is no economic impact on any person who complies with the Federal hazmat laws and the regulations, orders, special permits, and approvals issued under that law.

C. Federalism Implications

This final rule has been analyzed in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132 ("Federalism"), and the President's May 20, 2009 memorandum on "Preemption" (74 FR 24693, May 22, 2009). As amended in 2005, 49 U.S.C. 5125(h) provided that the preemption provisions in Federal hazmat laws do "not apply to any * * * penalty * * * utilized by a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian tribe to enforce a requirement applicable to the transportation of hazardous material." Accordingly, this final rule does not have any preemptive effect on State, local, or Indian tribe enforcement procedures and penalties, and preparation of a federalism assessment is not warranted.

D. Compliance With the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

Pursuant to Section 201 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-4, 2 U.S.C. 1531), each Federal agency "shall, unless otherwise prohibited by law, assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector (other than to the extent that such regulations incorporate requirements specifically set forth in law)." Section 202 of the Act (2 U.S.C. 1532) further requires that "before promulgating any general notice of proposed rulemaking that is likely to result in the promulgation of any rule that includes any Federal mandate that

may result in expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of [\$140,800,000 or more (as adjusted for inflation)] in any one year, and before promulgating any final rule for which a general notice of proposed rulemaking was published, the agency shall prepare a written statement" detailing the effect on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector. This final rule will not result in the expenditure, in the aggregate, of \$140,800,000 or more in any one year by State, local, or Indian Tribal governments, or the private sector, and thus preparation of such a statement is not required.

E. Environmental Assessment

There are no significant environmental impacts associated with this final rule.

F. Energy Impact

Executive Order 13211 requires Federal agencies to prepare a Statement of Energy Effects for any "significant energy action." 66 FR 28355 (May 22, 2001). According to definitions set forth under the Executive Order, there will be no significant energy action as a result of the issuance of this final rule.

G. International Trade Impact Assessment

The Trade Agreement Act of 1979 prohibits Federal agencies from engaging in any standards or related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. Legitimate domestic objectives, such as safety, are not considered unnecessary obstacles. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards. This rulemaking is purely domestic in nature and is not expected to affect trade opportunities for U.S. firms doing business overseas or for foreign firms doing business in the United States.

H. Paperwork Reduction Act

There are no new information collection requirements in this final rule.

I. Privacy Act

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any comments or other written communications received into any of FRA's dockets, by the name of the individual submitting the comment or other written communication (or signing the comment or other written communication, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). See <http://www.regulations.gov/#!privacyNotice>

for the privacy notice of regulations.gov, or you may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 209

Administrative practices and procedures, Hazardous materials transportation, Penalties, Railroad safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

The Final Rule

In consideration of the foregoing, chapter II, subtitle B of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 209—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for part 209 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 5123, 5124, 20103, 20107, 20111, 20112, 20114; 28 U.S.C. 2461, note; and 49 CFR 1.89.

■ 2. Revise § 209.103 to read as follows:

§ 209.103 Minimum and maximum penalties.

(a) A person who knowingly violates a requirement of the Federal hazardous materials transportation laws, an order issued thereunder, subchapter A or C of chapter I, subtitle B, of this title, or a special permit or approval issued under subchapter A or C of chapter I, subtitle B, of this title is liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$75,000 for each violation, except that—

(1) The maximum civil penalty for a violation is \$175,000 if the violation results in death, serious illness, or severe injury to any person, or substantial destruction of property and

(2) A minimum \$450 civil penalty applies to a violation related to training.

(b) When the violation is a continuing one, each day of the violation constitutes a separate offense. 49 U.S.C. 5123.

(c) The maximum and minimum civil penalties described in paragraph (a) of this section apply to violations occurring on or after October 1, 2012.

■ 3. In § 209.105, revise the last sentence of (c) to read as follows:

§ 209.105 Notice of probable violation.

* * * * *

(c) * * * In an amended notice, FRA may change the civil penalty amount proposed to be assessed up to and including the maximum penalty amount of \$75,000 for each violation, except that if the violation results in death, serious illness or severe injury to any

person, or substantial destruction of property, FRA may change the penalty amount proposed to be assessed up to and including the maximum penalty amount of \$175,000.

- 4. Amend appendix B to part 209 as follows:
 - a. Revise the second sentence of the first paragraph of the introductory text;
 - b. Revise the last sentence of the second paragraph of the introductory text;
 - c. Revise the fifth sentence of the third paragraph of the introductory text;
 - d. Revise the table entry for “173.24(b)(1) and 173.24(b)(2) and 173.24(f)(1) and 173.24(f)(1)(ii)”;
 - e. Revise the table entry for “173.24(c)”;

- f. Revise footnote 2 to the table. The revisions read as follows:

Appendix B to Part 209—Federal Railroad Administration Guidelines for Initial Hazardous Materials Assessments

* * * The guideline penalty amounts reflect the best judgment of the FRA Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance (RRS) and of the Safety Law Division of the Office of Chief Counsel (RCC) on the relative severity of the various violations routinely encountered by FRA inspectors on a scale of amounts up to the maximum \$75,000 penalty, except the maximum civil penalty is \$175,000 if the violation results in death, serious illness or severe injury to any person, or substantial destruction of property, and a minimum \$450 penalty applies to a violation related to training. * * *

* * * When a violation of the Federal hazardous material transportation law, an order issued thereunder, the Hazardous Materials Regulations or a special permit, approval, or order issued under those regulations results in death, serious illness or severe injury to any person, or substantial destruction of property, a maximum penalty of at least \$75,000 and up to and including \$175,000 shall always be assessed initially.

* * * In fact, FRA reserves the express authority to amend the NOPV to seek a penalty of up to \$75,000 for each violation, and up to \$175,000 for any violation resulting in death, serious illness or severe injury to any person, or substantial destruction of property, at any time prior to issuance of an order. * * *

Civil Penalty Assessment Guidelines

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49 CFR Section	Description	Guideline amount ²
* * * 173.24(b)(1) and 173.24(b)(2) and 173.24(f)(1) and 173.24(f)(1)(ii).	* * * Securing closures: These subsections are the general “no leak” standard for all packagings. Sec. 173.24(b) deals primarily with <i>packaging</i> as a whole, while § 173.24(f) focuses on <i>closures</i> . Use § 173.31(d) for tank cars, when possible. Cite the sections accordingly, using both the leak/non-leak criteria and the package size considerations to reach the appropriate penalty. <i>Any actual leak will aggravate the guideline by, typically, 50%; a leak with contact with a human being will aggravate by at least 100%, up to the maximum of \$75,000, and up to \$175,000 if the violation results in death, serious illness or injury or substantial destruction of property. For intermodal (IM) portable tanks and other tanks of that size range, use the tank car penalty amounts, as stated in § 173.31.</i> —Small bottle or box 1,000 —55-gallon drum 2,500 —Larger container, e.g., IBC; <i>not</i> portable tank or tank car. 5,000 —IM portable tank, cite § 173.24(f) and use the penalty amounts for tank cars: Residue, generally, § 173.29(a) and, loaded, § 173.31(d). —Residue adhering to outside of package (i.e., portable tanks, tank cars, etc.) 5,000	
* * * 173.24(c)	* * * Use of package not meeting specifications, including required stencils and markings. The most specific section for the package involved should be cited (see below). The penalty guideline should be adjusted for the size of the container. <i>Any actual leak will aggravate the guideline by, typically, 50%; a leak with contact with a human being will aggravate by at least 100%, up to the maximum of \$75,000, and up to \$175,000 if the violation results in death, serious illness or injury or substantial destruction of property.</i> —Small bottle or box. 1,000 —55-gallon drum. 2,500 —Larger container, e.g., IBC; <i>not</i> portable tank or tank car, <i>but</i> this section is applicable to a hopper car.. 5,000 <i>For more specific sections: Tank cars—§ 173.31(a), portable tanks—§ 173.32, and IM portable tanks—§§ 173.32a, 173.32b, and 173.32c.</i>	

²A person who knowingly violates the hazardous material transportation law or a regulation, order, special permit, or approval issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$75,000 for each violation, except that the maximum civil penalty for a violation is \$175,000 if the violation results in death, serious illness, or severe injury to any person or substantial destruction of property; and a minimum \$450 civil penalty applies to a violation related to training. Each day that the violation continues is a separate offense. 49 U.S.C. 5123; 28 U.S.C. 2461, note.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 6, 2013

Joseph C. Szabo,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 040205043-4043-01]

RIN 0648-XC468

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2013 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS implements accountability measures (AMs) for the commercial sector for vermilion snapper in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the South Atlantic. Commercial landings for vermilion snapper, as estimated by the Science Research Director (SRD), are projected to reach the commercial annual catch limit (ACL) for the January 1 through June 30, 2013 fishing period on February 13, 2013. Therefore, NMFS closes the commercial sector for vermilion snapper in the South Atlantic EEZ on February 13, 2013, and it will remain closed until the start of the July 1 through December 31, 2013, fishing period. This closure is necessary to protect the vermilion snapper resource.

DATES: This rule is effective 12:01 a.m., local time, February 13, 2013, until 12:01 a.m., local time, July 1, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Hayslip, telephone: 727-824-5305, email: Catherine.Hayslip@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The snapper-grouper fishery of the South Atlantic includes vermilion snapper 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 is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

(Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

The commercial ACL (commercial quota) for vermilion snapper in the South Atlantic is divided into two, 6-month time periods, and is 315,523 lb (143,119 kg), gutted weight, for the current fishing period, January 1 through June 30, 2013, as specified in 50 CFR 622.42(e)(4)(i).

In accordance with regulations at 50 CFR 622.49(b)(6)(i), NMFS is required to close the commercial sector for vermilion snapper when its commercial ACL (commercial quota) for that portion of the fishing year applicable to the respective commercial ACL (commercial quota) has been reached, or is projected to be reached, by filing a notification to that effect with the Office of the Federal Register. NMFS has determined that the commercial ACL (commercial quota) for South Atlantic vermilion snapper for the January-June fishing period will have been reached by February 13, 2013. Accordingly, the commercial sector for South Atlantic vermilion snapper is closed effective 12:01 a.m., local time, February 13, 2013, until 12:01 a.m., local time, July 1, 2013. The commercial ACL (commercial quota) for vermilion snapper in the South Atlantic is 302,523 lb (137,222 kg), gutted weight, for the July 1 through December 31, 2013, fishing period, as specified in 50 CFR 622.42(e)(4)(ii).

The operator of a vessel with a valid commercial vessel permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper having vermilion snapper onboard must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such vermilion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, February 13, 2013. During the closure, the bag limit specified in 50 CFR 622.39(d)(1)(v), applies to all harvest or possession of vermilion snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ, including the bag limit that may be retained by the captain or crew of a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat. The bag limit for such captain and crew is zero. During the closure, the possession limits specified in 50 CFR 622.39(d)(2) apply to all harvest or possession of vermilion snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ. During the closure, the sale or purchase of vermilion snapper taken from the EEZ is prohibited. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to the sale or purchase of vermilion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, February 13, 2013, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. For a person on board a vessel for which a Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery

has been issued, the sale and purchase provisions of the commercial closure for vermilion snapper would apply regardless of whether the fish are harvested in state or Federal waters, as specified in 50 CFR 622.43(a)(5)(ii).

Classification

The Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, has determined this temporary rule is necessary for the conservation and management of the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery and is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the FMP, and other applicable laws.

The temporary rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

These measures are exempt from the procedures of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because the temporary rule is issued without opportunity for prior notice and comment.

This action responds to the best available scientific information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, (AA), finds that the need to immediately implement this action to close the commercial sector for vermilion snapper constitutes good cause to waive the requirements to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), as such procedures would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures would be unnecessary because the rule itself has been subject to notice and comment, and all that remains is to notify the public of the closure. Allowing prior notice and opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because of the need to immediately implement this action to protect vermilion snapper since the capacity of the fishing fleet allows for rapid harvest of the quota. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require time and would likely result in a harvest well in excess of the established commercial ACL (commercial quota).

For the aforementioned reasons, the AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.43(a) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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