DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket No. USCG–2013–0006]

Special Local Regulation: Southern California Annual Marine Events for the San Diego Captain of the Port Zone

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of enforcement of regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will enforce the 2013 San Diego Crew Classic Special Local Regulation located in the regulated area encompassing that portion of Mission Bay, San Diego, California bounded by Enchanted Cove, Fiesta Island, Pacific Passage and DeAnza Point, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 6, 2013 and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 7, 2013. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of the participants, crew, spectators, sponsor vessels of the event, and general users of the waterway. During the enforcement period, no spectators shall anchor, block, loiter in, or impede the transit of participants or official patrol vessels in the regulated area during the effective dates and times, unless cleared for such entry by Coast Guard Patrol Commander or through an official supporting vessel.

DATES: The regulations in 33 CFR 100.1101 will be enforced from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 6, 2013 and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 7, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice, call or email Petty Officer Bryan Gollogly, Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego, CA; telephone 619–278–7656, email D11–PF–MarineEventsSanDiego@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard will enforce the Special Local Regulation for the 2013 San Diego Crew Classic in 33 CFR 100.1101 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 6, 2013 and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 7, 2013. Under provisions of 33 CFR 100.1101, a vessel may not enter the regulated area, unless it receives permission from the COTP. Spectator vessels may safely transit outside the regulated area but may not anchor, block, loiter, or impede the transit of participants or official patrol vessels. The Coast Guard may be assisted by other Federal, State, or Local law enforcement agencies in enforcing this regulation.

This notice is issued under authority of 33 CFR 100.1101 and 5 U.S.C. 552(a). In addition to this notice in the Federal Register, the Coast Guard will provide the maritime community with extensive advance notification of this enforcement period via the Local Notice to Mariners. If the Captain of the Port or his designated representative determines that the regulated area need not be enforced for the full duration stated on this notice, he or she may use a Broadcast Notice to Mariners to grant general permission to enter the regulated area.

Dated: March 6, 2013.

S.M. Mahoney, Captain, US Coast Guard, Captain of the Port San Diego.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard will provide to provide for the safety of the participants, crew, spectators, sponsor vessels of the event, and general users of the waterway. During the enforcement period, no spectators shall anchor, block, loiter in, or impede the transit of participants or official patrol vessels in the regulated area during the effective dates and times, unless cleared for such entry by Coast Guard Patrol Commander or through an official supporting vessel.

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Dated: March 6, 2013.

S.M. Mahoney, Captain, US Coast Guard, Captain of the Port San Diego.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The October 29, 2010, final regulations (75 FR 66832) amended the regulations for Institutional Eligibility Under the HEA, the Secretary’s Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, the Secretary’s Recognition Procedures for State Agencies, the Student Assistance General Provisions, the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program, the Federal Pell Grant Program, and the Academic Competitiveness Grant (AGC) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National Smart Grant) Programs. This document revises the preamble discussion to the October 29, 2010, final regulations in accordance with the remand in Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities v. Duncan, 681 F.3d 427 (D.C. Cir. 2012).

We note that the Court in APSCU v. Duncan, also remanded certain provisions of the Department’s misrepresentation regulations for revision consistent with the Court’s opinion. We will be publishing a separate notice in the Federal Register addressing this issue.

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Revisions to the Preamble of the Final Rule

Current Safe Harbors

We are revising our response to the third comment under the Current Safe Harbors heading. Our discussion and response to this comment that begins in the first column on page 66874 is revised as follows:

"Discussion: The Department believes that an institution’s resolute and ongoing goal should be for its students to complete their educational programs. Employees should not be rewarded beyond their standard salary or wages for their contributions to this fundamental duty.

The safe harbor in § 668.14(b)(22)(ii)(E), as promulgated on November 1, 2002 (67 FR 67048), permits compensation based upon students successfully completing their educational programs or one academic year of their educational programs, whichever is shorter. However, as we discussed in the NPRM, it is the Department’s experience that institutions use this safe harbor to provide recruiters with compensation that is “indirectly” based upon securing enrollments in violation of the HEA. 20 U.S.C. 1094(a)(20) (“The institution will not provide any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting or admission activities or in making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance. * * *”) In other words, because a student cannot successfully complete an educational program without first enrolling in the program, the compensation for securing program completion requires the student’s enrollment as a necessary preliminary step.

This is particularly the case with short-term, accelerated programs, where the Department was advised in comments received during and following the November 2009 Negotiated Rulemaking Meeting that there is the potential for increased efforts by institutions to rely upon this safe harbor to provide incentives to recruiters. Concern over recruiters guiding students to short-term programs was not as prominent when the safe harbor was adopted in 2002 because the number of such programs was not as widespread then, having grown dramatically in more recent years. The shorter the program, the more likely the student will complete the program, thus rewarding enrollment and completion notwithstanding the student’s academic performance or the quality of the program. We are also concerned that, if this safe harbor is not removed, recruiters will steer students to the shortest possible programs regardless of whether the programs are appropriate for the students, or to an even smaller number of program options where the recruiter believes completion is most likely to be obtained. As the primary function of admissions representatives is to serve as counselors, their primary goal should be to make sure that the student is a good fit for the institution and the program, to make sure that the institution and program are a good fit for the student, and not to enroll the student if this is not the case. A decision by a recruiter not to enroll a student should be considered every bit as valuable to the institution as a decision to enroll the student, if, in fact, the student and the institution or the program are not a good match.

As discussed in the NPRM, the Department also is aware of schools that have devised and operated grading policies that all but ensure that students who enroll will graduate, regardless of their academic performance. Thus, as explained in comments received during and following the November 2009 Negotiated Rulemaking Meeting, the Department believes that retaining this safe harbor could contribute to lowered admissions standards, misrepresented program offerings, lowered academic progress standards, altered attendance records, and a lack of meaningful emphasis on academic performance and program quality. We also note that recruiters are aware that many of the schools that would be most affected by the removal of the safe harbor have poor completion rates—approximately 10 to 25 percent.

As a result, if the safe harbor were retained, in order for recruiters to secure incentive compensation, they would likely need to enroll even more marginal students, and make even greater unfounded claims about a program, to increase the potential that some will actually complete their programs of instruction. And, of course, there is the further potential for unscrupulous actors to manipulate the process to obtain student completions, through grade or attendance manipulation.

Accordingly, this safe harbor ultimately does not benefit students, and because institutions have sufficient reasons to value student retention and completion without providing incentives to recruiters, we believe it is appropriate to remove the safe harbor.

We disagree with the commenter who stated that removal of this safe harbor is inconsistent with the Administration’s goal of increasing student retention in postsecondary education. Institutions should not need this safe harbor to demonstrate their commitment to retaining students within their program of instruction.

We disagree with the commenters who indicated that incentive payments under this safe harbor have a positive effect on a student’s educational experience. There is nothing about the making of incentive payments to recruiters based upon student retention that enhances the quality of a student’s educational experience or makes it more likely a student will complete a program. If the program of instruction has value and is appropriate for a student’s needs, a student will likely enjoy a positive educational experience regardless of the manner in which the student’s recruiter is compensated, whereas retention bonuses can cause recruiters to pressure students to remain enrolled even when a student is dissatisfied with a program or is eligible for a refund of charges paid. Rather than providing a benefit by bolstering the quality of students that are enrolled, retention of the safe harbor is likely to perpetuate abuses by fostering enrollment and retention in programs that do not best reflect a student’s needs or desires, but are designed to secure completion of the programs at all costs.

Finally, the removal of this safe harbor would not permit payments based on a student’s employment in the field of study after graduation. Here again, the potential for manipulation and abuse is significant. The Department’s experience has shown that some institutions pay incentive compensation to recruiters based upon claims that the students whom the recruiter enrolled graduated and received jobs in their fields of study. Yet, included among the abuses the Department has witnessed, for example, is a circumstance where the institution counted a student who studied culinary arts and was working in an entry-level position in the fast food industry as being employed in his field of study. Such a position did not require the student to purchase a higher education ‘credential.’ As a result, we believe that paying bonuses to recruiters based upon retention, completion, graduation, or placement should be considered to violate the HEA’s prohibition on the payment of incentive compensation.”

We are also amending our response to the fourth comment under the Current Safe Harbors heading. Our discussion and response to this comment found in the third column on page 66874 is amended by adding the following after the second paragraph of our discussion:
“In further response to commenters’ questions about whether an institution could provide incentive compensation to employees in college diversity offices who recruit minority students, we note that the HEA prohibits all direct or indirect payments of incentive compensation to personnel or staff engaged in student recruitment and does not distinguish between incentives for personnel or staff recruitment actions that could have certain effects, e.g., recruitment of a well-qualified or diverse student body. The prohibition thus includes a prohibition on paying incentive compensation for efforts to promote diversity at an institution. The Department’s objective in removing all of the safe harbors is to separate the meritocratic performance of all employees from an enrollment-based compensation system, consistent with the statute’s language, regardless of what the purpose of the enrollment might be.

We also wish to reiterate that the incentive compensation prohibition is designed to protect all students from receiving undue pressure to enroll or to graduate. The statute and the implementing regulations ban all compensation to persons and entities that directly or indirectly provide an incentive to encourage enrollment. The incentive compensation ban is designed, among other things, to keep students of all races and backgrounds from being urged or coaxed into enrolling in a program that will not best meet their needs. Minority and low income students are often the targeted audience of recruitment abuses, and our regulatory changes are intended to end that abuse. It is our expectation and objective that enrollment of students, including minority students, against their best educational interests would be reduced with the elimination of improper incentive compensation.

In point of fact, there never was a safe harbor addressing minority recruitment; neither the prior regulations nor these regulations provided a change in this area. Institutions are encouraged to continue to enroll all students in programs of instruction that are best educational interests would be reduced with the elimination of improper incentive compensation.

We believe our regulations encourage achievement and occupational success. It is our expectation and objective that enrollment of students, including minority students, against their best educational interests would be reduced with the elimination of improper incentive compensation. The prohibition thus includes a prohibition on paying incentive compensation for efforts to promote diversity at an institution.

We also wish to reiterate that the incentive compensation prohibition is designed to protect all students from receiving undue pressure to enroll or to graduate. The statute and the implementing regulations ban all compensation to persons and entities that directly or indirectly provide an incentive to encourage enrollment. The incentive compensation ban is designed, among other things, to keep students of all races and backgrounds from being urged or coaxed into enrolling in a program that will not best meet their needs. Minority and low income students are often the targeted audience of recruitment abuses, and our regulatory changes are intended to end that abuse. It is our expectation and objective that enrollment of students, including minority students, against their best educational interests would be reduced with the elimination of improper incentive compensation.

List of Subjects

34 CFR Part 602
Colleges and universities, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

34 CFR Part 603
Colleges and universities, Vocational education.

34 CFR Part 668
Administrative practice and procedure, Aliens, Colleges and universities, Consumer protection, Grant programs—education, Loan programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Selective Service System, Student aid, Vocational education.

34 CFR Part 682
Administrative practice and procedure, Colleges and universities, Loan programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Student aid, Vocational education.

34 CFR Part 685
Administrative practice and procedure, Colleges and universities, Loan programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Student aid, Vocational education.

34 CFR Part 686
Administrative practice and procedure, Colleges and universities, Education, Elementary and secondary education, Grant programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Student aid.

34 CFR Part 690
Colleges and universities, Education of disadvantaged, Grant programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Student aid.

34 CFR Part 691
Colleges and universities, Elementary and secondary education, Grant programs—education, Student aid.

Dated: March 18, 2013.

Arne Duncan,
Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. 2013–06656 Filed 3–21–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180

Banda de Lupinus albus doce (BLAD); Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This regulation establishes an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of banda de Lupinus albus doce (BLAD), a naturally occurring polypeptide from the catabolism of a seed storage protein (β-conglutin) of sweet lupines (Lupinus albus), in or on all food commodities when applied as a fungicide and used in accordance with label directions and good agricultural practices. On behalf of Consumo Em Verde S.A., Bert Volger of Ceres International LLC submitted a petition to EPA under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), requesting an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance. This regulation eliminates the need to establish a maximum permissible level for residues of BLAD under the FFDCA.

DATES: This regulation is effective March 22, 2013. Objections and requests for hearings must be received on or before May 21, 2013, and must be filed in accordance with the instructions provided in 40 CFR part 178 (see also Unit I.C. of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION).

ADDRESSES: The docket for this action, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA–HQ–OPP–2011–1026, is available at http://www.regulations.gov or at the Office of Pesticide Programs Regulatory Public Docket (OPP Docket) in the Environmental Protection Agency Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West Bldg., Rm. 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001. The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566–1744, and the telephone number for the OPP Docket is (703) 305–5805. Please review the visitor instructions and additional information about the docket available at http://www.epa.gov/dockets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Menyon Adams, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001; telephone number: (703) 347–8496; email address: adams.menyon@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information
A. Does this action apply to me?
You may be potentially affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. The following