

violations that occurred after November 2, 2015 \$11,182 per violation, up to a total of \$55,910 per civil penalty action, in the case of an individual or small business concern; and

(2) For violations that occurred on or before November 2, 2015, \$10,000 per violation, up to a total of \$400,000 per civil penalty action, in the case of any other person. For violations that occurred after November 2, 2015, \$11,182 per violation, up to a total of \$447,280 per civil penalty action, in the case of any other person.

(c) *Certain aviation related violations.* In the case of a violation of 49 U.S.C. chapter 449 (except sections 44902, 44903(d), 44907(a)–(d)(1)(A), 44907(d)(1)(C)–(f), 44908, and 44909), or 49 U.S.C. 46302 or 46303, or a regulation prescribed or order issued under any of those provisions, TSA may impose a civil penalty in the following amounts:

(1) For violations that occurred on or before November 2, 2015, \$10,000 per violation, up to a total of \$50,000 per civil penalty action, in the case of an individual or small business concern, as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632). For violations that occurred after November 2, 2015, \$13,066 per violation, up to a total of 65,333 per civil penalty action, in the case of an individual (except an airman serving as an airman), or a small business concern.

(2) For violations that occurred on or before November 2, 2015, \$10,000 per violation, up to a total of \$400,000 per civil penalty action, in the case of any other person (except an airman serving as an airman) not operating an aircraft for the transportation of passengers or property for compensation. For violations that occurred after November 2, 2015, \$13,066 per violation, up to a total of \$522,657 per civil penalty action, in the case of any other person (except an airman serving as an airman) not operating an aircraft for the transportation of passengers or property for compensation.

(3) For violations that occurred on or before November 2, 2015, \$25,000 per violation, up to a total of \$400,000 per civil penalty action, in the case of a person operating an aircraft for the transportation of passengers or property for compensation (except an individual serving as an airman). For violations that occurred after November 2, 2015, \$32,666 per violation, up to a total of \$522,657 per civil penalty action, in the case of a person (except an individual serving as an airman) operating an aircraft for the transportation of

passengers or property for compensation.

Jeh Charles Johnson,
Secretary.

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9110–04–P; 9110–05–P**

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

12 CFR Parts 19 and 109

[Docket ID OCC–2017–0002]

RIN 1557–AE14

Rules of Practice and Procedure; Rules of Practice and Procedure in Adjudicatory Proceedings; Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustments

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is amending its rules of practice and procedure for national banks and its rules of practice and procedure in adjudicatory proceedings for Federal savings associations to adjust the maximum amount of each civil money penalty within its jurisdiction to administer to account for inflation. These actions implement the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015.

DATES: This rule is effective on January 27, 2017 and is applicable to penalties assessed after January 15, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Campbell, Counsel, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, (202) 649–5490, or, for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, TTY, (202) 649–5597, or Alexander Abramovich, Attorney, Enforcement and Compliance Division, (202) 649–6200, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20219.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The final rule changes the maximum amount for each civil money penalty (CMP) within the OCC's jurisdiction to administer to account for inflation pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (the 1990 Adjustment Act),¹ as amended by

¹ Public Law 101–410, Oct. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 890, *codified at 28 U.S.C. 2461 note.*

the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (the 2015 Adjustment Act).² The 1990 Adjustment Act had required the OCC and other Federal agencies with CMP authority to publish by regulation the inflation-adjusted maximum amount for each CMP authorized by a law that the agency has jurisdiction to administer. Key features of the 1990 Adjustment Act included requiring such agencies to make inflation adjustments at least once every four years following any initial adjustment, capping the initial inflation adjustment increase at 10 percent, and imposing rounding rules that limited increases based on the amount of the penalty.

The purpose of the 2015 Adjustment Act was to establish a mechanism to regularly adjust CMPs for inflation; maintain the deterrent effect of CMPs and promote compliance with the law; and improve the collection of CMPs by the Federal government.³ The 2015 Adjustment Act revised the process by which each Federal agency must adjust its CMPs for inflation. Under the 2015 Adjustment Act, agencies were required to adjust the amount of their CMPs⁴ for inflation with an initial catch-up adjustment through an interim final rule published by July 1, 2016, and to make subsequent adjustments for inflation by January 15 of each year, beginning in 2017. In addition, the 2015 Adjustment Act simplified the process for calculating the inflation increase and eliminated the complex rounding rules in the 1990 Adjustment Act.

The 2015 Adjustment Act also required the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue initial guidance to Federal agencies no later February 29, 2016, and subsequent guidance not later than December 15 of each year, beginning on December 15, 2016, on implementing the required inflation adjustments.

In accordance with the 2015 Adjustment Act and OMB's initial guidance, issued on February 29, 2016,⁵

² Public Law 114–74, Title VII, section 701(b), Nov. 2, 2015, 129 Stat. 599, *codified at 28 U.S.C. 2461 note.*

³ 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 2(b).

⁴ The 2015 Adjustment Act defined a “civil monetary penalty” to mean “any penalty, fine, or other sanction that is for a specific monetary amount as provided by Federal law; or has a maximum amount provided for by Federal law; and is assessed or enforced by an agency pursuant to Federal law; and is assessed or enforced pursuant to an administrative proceeding or a civil action in the Federal courts.” 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 3(2). Thus, a penalty based on another measure, such as a percentage of total assets, need not be adjusted.

⁵ Office of Management and Budget Memorandum, M–16–06 (February 24, 2016),

the OCC increased the amount of each maximum CMP with an initial catch-up adjustment by publishing an interim final rule in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 2016, with an effective date of August 1, 2016.⁶ The OCC did not receive any comments on this interim final rule.

On December 16, 2016, the OMB published additional guidance to assist Federal agencies in calculating the 2017 annual inflation adjustment pursuant to the 2015 Adjustment Act (2016 OMB Guidance).⁷ The 2016 OMB guidance provided the cost-of-living inflation adjustment multiplier (*i.e.*, the inflation adjustment factor agencies must use to adjust their penalties) for 2017, step-by-step instructions on how agencies should calculate the annual inflation adjustments, and other relevant information.

II. Description of the Final Rule

A. 2017 Inflation Adjustment

The 2015 Adjustment Act required Federal agencies to make annual adjustments no later than January 15 of each year, beginning on January 15, 2017⁸ and to publish such adjustments in the **Federal Register**. This final rule amends the OCC's rules of practice and procedure for national banks at 12 CFR 19.240 and its rules of practice and procedure in adjudicatory proceedings for Federal savings associations at 12 CFR 109.103 to adjust for inflation the maximum amount of each CMP that the OCC has jurisdiction to impose in accordance with the 2015 Adjustment Act and the 2016 OMB Guidance.

First, the final rule describes the formula used by the OCC to calculate the new maximum inflation-adjusted amount of each CMP. It states that the inflation adjustment is calculated by multiplying the maximum dollar amount of the CMP for the previous calendar year by the cost-of-living inflation adjustment multiplier provided annually by OMB and rounding the total to the nearest dollar.⁹

Next, the rule adjusts each CMP that the OCC has jurisdiction to administer in accordance with the formula described above. The OCC calculated the adjusted amounts in the national bank chart at 12 CFR 19.240(b) (national bank chart) and Federal savings

association chart at 12 CFR 109.103(c)(2) (Federal savings association chart) by applying the cost-of-living inflation adjustment multiplier provided by OMB¹⁰ to each maximum CMP and rounding all penalty amounts to the nearest dollar. Each chart identifies the statutes that authorize the OCC to assess CMPs, describes the different tiers of penalties provided in each statute (as applicable), and sets out the maximum inflation-adjusted penalty that the OCC may impose pursuant to each statutory provision.¹¹

The final rule also makes clear that the adjustments in each chart apply to penalties assessed after January 15, 2017, for violations that occurred on or after November 2, 2015, which is the date of enactment of the 2015 Adjustment Act.

The final rule also states that future annual inflation adjustments to the maximum penalty amounts will be published as a notice in the **Federal Register**. The 2015 Adjustment Act required Federal agencies to annually adjust their CMPs for inflation beginning on January 15, 2017, and each year thereafter, and to publish the adjusted CMPs in the **Federal Register**. While the 2015 Adjustment Act required the OCC to initially adjust its maximum CMP amounts through an interim final rulemaking, the 2015 Adjustment Act specifically stated that subsequent adjustments shall be made "notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code" (*i.e.*, the Administrative Procedure Act or APA).¹² The 2016 OMB Guidance clarifies that this means "the public procedure the APA generally requires—notice, an opportunity for comment, and a delay in effective date—is not required for agencies to issue regulations implementing the annual adjustment."¹³ Accordingly, the OCC will publish its future inflation

adjustments as a notice. This process is specifically described in the 2016 OMB Guidance.¹⁴ In addition, we note that this is similar to the OCC's semiannual fee assessment process at 12 CFR part 8, which sets forth a chart describing the formula to calculate the semiannual assessment fee and states that the OCC will publish a notice providing the fees for the upcoming year.¹⁵

Furthermore, because the 2015 Adjustment Act does not require annual adjustments to be published in accordance with the APA, the OCC is amending 12 CFR 19.240 and 12 CFR 109.103 by issuing a final rule rather than a notice of proposed rulemaking.

B. Technical Change to the National Bank Chart and Federal Savings Association Chart

The OCC is correcting a minor technical error in footnote 3 of the national bank chart and Federal savings association chart. Footnote 3 explains that statutes cross-referencing 12 U.S.C. 1818 are adjusted automatically when the penalty in section 1818 is adjusted for inflation. Fifteen U.S.C. 1649e(k) was inadvertently included as an example of a penalty that cross-references 12 U.S.C. 1818. Accordingly, the final rule deletes reference to 15 U.S.C. 1649e(k) in the footnotes, but retains the reference to this statute in the national bank chart and Federal savings association chart.

III. Regulatory Analysis

A. Delayed Effective Date

Section 302 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994¹⁶ (RCDRIA) required that the effective date of new regulations and amendments to regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosures, or other new requirements on insured depository institutions shall be the first day of a calendar quarter that begins on or after the date the regulations are published in final form. 12 U.S.C. 4802(b)(1). The RCDRIA does not apply to this final rule because the rule merely increases the amount of CMPs that already exist and does not impose any additional reporting, disclosures, or other new requirements.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act applies only to rules for which an agency publishes a general notice of proposed rulemaking pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

¹⁰ The 2016 OMB Guidance states that the 2017 cost-of-living inflation adjustment multiplier is 1.01636. 2016 OMB Guidance, at 1. In accordance with the 2015 Adjustment Act, OMB based this multiplier on the percent change between the Consumer Price Index for October 2016 and October 2015. 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 5(b)(1).

¹¹ Although the 2015 Adjustment Act required agencies to increase the maximum penalty that may be assessed under each applicable statute to account for inflation, the OCC generally retains discretion to impose lesser penalties after consideration has been given to the financial resources and good faith of the institution or institution-affiliated party (IAP), the gravity of the violations, the history of previous violations by the institution or IAP, and such other matters as justice may require. 12 U.S.C. 1818(i)(2)(G) and *Interagency Policy Statement Regarding the Assessment of CMPs by the Federal Financial Institutions Regulatory Agencies*, 63 FR 30227 (June 3, 1998).

¹² 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 4(b)(2).

¹³ 2016 OMB Guidance, at 3.

¹⁴ 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 4(b)(2) and 2016 OMB Guidance, at 3.

¹⁵ 12 CFR 8.2 and 8.8.

¹⁶ 12 U.S.C. 4802.

available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2016/m-16-06.pdf>.

⁶ 81 FR 43021 (July 1, 2016).

⁷ Office of Management and Budget Memorandum, M-17-11 (December 16, 2016), available at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2017/m-17-11_0.pdf.

⁸ 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 4(a).

⁹ The formula that OMB must use is described in the 2015 Adjustment Act at 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 5.

553(b).¹⁷ Because the 2015 Adjustment Act specifically exempted agencies' annual adjustments from the requirements of the APA,¹⁸ the OCC is issuing a final rule, rather than a general notice of proposed rulemaking. Thus, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply to this final rule.

C. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995¹⁹ required that an agency prepare a budgetary impact statement before promulgating any rule likely to result in a Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100 million or more, as adjusted for inflation, in any one year. The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act only applies when an agency issues a general notice of proposed rulemaking. Because the OCC is not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking, this final rule is not subject to section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

D. Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA),²⁰ the OCC may not

conduct or sponsor, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless the information collection displays a valid OMB control number. The final rule contains no information collection requirements under the PRA.

List of Subjects

12 CFR Part 19

Administrative practice and procedure, Crime, Equal access to justice, Investigations, National banks, Penalties, Securities.

12 CFR Part 109

Administrative practice and procedure, Federal savings associations, Penalties.

Authority and Issuance

For the reasons set out in the preamble, parts 19 and 109 of chapter I of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations are amended as follows:

PART 19—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 19 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 504, 554–557; 12 U.S.C. 93(b), 93a, 164, 481, 504, 1817, 1818, 1820, 1831m, 1831o, 1832, 1884, 1972, 3102, 3108(a), 3110, 3909, and 4717; 15 U.S.C. 78(h) and (i), 78o–4(c), 78o–5, 78q–1, 78s, 78u, 78u–2, 78u–3, 78w, and 1639e; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note; 31 U.S.C. 330 and 5321; and 42 U.S.C. 4012a.

■ 2. Section 19.240 is revised to read as follows:

§ 19.240 Inflation adjustments.

(a) *Statutory formula to calculate inflation adjustments.* The maximum amount of each civil money penalty in the chart in paragraph (b) of this section is adjusted annually for inflation. The inflation adjustment is calculated by multiplying the maximum dollar amount of the civil money penalty for the previous calendar year by the cost-of-living inflation adjustment multiplier provided annually by the Office of Management and Budget and rounding the total to the nearest dollar.

(b) *2017 Inflation adjustment.* The maximum amount of each civil money penalty in the following chart applies to penalties assessed after January 15, 2017, for violations that occurred on or after November 2, 2015:

U.S. Code citation	Description and tier (if applicable)	Maximum penalty amount (in dollars) ¹
12 U.S.C. 93(b)	Violation of Various Provisions of the National Bank Act:	
	Tier 1	9,623
	Tier 2	48,114
	Tier 3	≥ 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 164	Violation of Reporting Requirements:	
	Tier 1	3,849
	Tier 2	38,492
	Tier 3	≥ 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 481	Refusal of Affiliate to Cooperate in Examination (national bank)	9,623
12 U.S.C. 504	Violation of Various Provisions of the Federal Reserve Act:	
	Tier 1	9,623
	Tier 2	48,114
	Tier 3	≥ 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(16)	Violation of Change in Bank Control Act:	
	Tier 1	9,623
	Tier 2	48,114
	Tier 3	≥ 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 1818(i)(2) ³	Violation of Law, Unsafe or Unsound Practice, or Breach of Fiduciary Duty:	
	Tier 1	9,623
	Tier 2	48,114
	Tier 3	≥ 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 1820(k)(6)(A)(ii)	Violation of Post-Employment Restrictions: Per violation	316,566
12 U.S.C. 1832(c)	Violation of Withdrawals by Negotiable or Transferable Instrument for Transfers to Third Parties: Per violation	2,795
12 U.S.C. 1884	Violation of the Bank Protection Act	279
12 U.S.C. 1972(2)(F)	Violation of Anti-Tying Provisions regarding Correspondent Accounts, Unsafe or Unsound Practices, or Breach of Fiduciary Duty:	
	Tier 1	9,623
	Tier 2	48,114

¹⁷ 5 U.S.C. 601(2).

¹⁸ 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section 4(b)(2) and 2016 OMB Guidance, at 3.

¹⁹ 2 U.S.C. 1532.

²⁰ 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

U.S. Code citation	Description and tier (if applicable)	Maximum penalty amount (in dollars) ¹
12 U.S.C. 3110(a)	Tier 3 Violation of Various Provisions of the International Banking Act (Federal Branches and Agencies):	2 1,924,589 43,983
12 U.S.C. 3110(c)	Violation of Reporting Requirements of the International Banking Act (Federal Branches and Agencies):	
	Tier 1	3,519
	Tier 2	35,186
	Tier 3	2 1,759,309
12 U.S.C. 3909(d)(1)	Violation of International Lending Supervision Act	2,394
15 U.S.C. 78u-2(b)	Violation of Various Provisions of the Securities Act, the Securities Exchange Act, the Investment Company Act, or the Investment Advisers Act:	
	Tier 1 (natural person)—Per violation	9,054
	Tier 1 (other person)—Per violation	90,535
	Tier 2 (natural person)—Per violation	90,535
	Tier 2 (other person)—Per violation	452,677
	Tier 3 (natural person)—Per violation	181,071
	Tier 3 (other person)—Per violation	905,353
15 U.S.C. 1639e(k)	Violation of Appraisal Independence Requirements:	
	First violation	11,053
	Subsequent violations	22,105
42 U.S.C. 4012a(f)(5)	Flood Insurance:	
	Per violation	2,090

¹ The maximum penalty amount is per day, unless otherwise indicated.

² The maximum penalty amount for a national bank is the *lesser* of this amount or 1 percent of total assets.

³ These amounts also apply to CMPs in statutes that cross-reference 12 U.S.C. 1818, such as 12 U.S.C. 2804, 3108, 3349, 4309, and 4717 and 15 U.S.C. 1607, 1693o, 1681s, 1691c, and 1692l.

(c) *Future inflation adjustments.*

Notice of the maximum penalty which may be assessed for the penalties enumerated in paragraph (b) of this section for calendar years after 2017 will be published in the **Federal Register** on an annual basis on or before January 15 of each calendar year based on the formula in paragraph (a) of this section.

PART 109—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN ADJUDICATORY PROCEEDINGS

■ 3. The authority citation for part 109 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 504, 554–557; 12 U.S.C. 1464, 1467, 1467a, 1468, 1817, 1818, 1820(k), 1829(e), 1832, 1884, 1972, 3349, 4717, 5412(b)(2)(B); 15 U.S.C. 78(l), 78o–5, 78u–2, 1639e; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note; 31 U.S.C. 5321; and 42 U.S.C. 4012a.

■ 4. Section 109.103 is amended by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 109.103 Civil money penalties.

* * * * *

(c) *Maximum amount of civil money penalties—(1) Statutory formula.* The maximum amount of each civil money penalty in the chart in paragraph (c)(2) of this section is adjusted annually for

inflation. The inflation adjustment is calculated by multiplying the maximum dollar amount of the civil money penalty for the previous calendar year by the cost-of-living inflation adjustment multiplier provided annually by the Office of Management and Budget and rounding the total to the nearest dollar.

(2) *2017 Inflation adjustment.* The maximum amount of each civil money penalty in the following chart applies to penalties assessed after January 15, 2017, for violations that occurred on or after November 2, 2015:

U.S. Code citation	CMP description	Maximum penalty amount (in dollars) ¹
12 U.S.C. 1464(v)	Reports of Condition:	
	1st Tier	3,849
	2nd Tier	38,492
	3rd Tier	2 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 1467(d)	Refusal of Affiliate to Cooperate in Examination	9,623
12 U.S.C. 1467a(r)	Late/Inaccurate Reports:	
	1st Tier	3,849
	2nd Tier	38,492
	3rd Tier	2 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(16)	Violation of Change in Bank Control Act:	
	Tier 1	9,623
	Tier 2	48,114
	Tier 3	2 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 1818(i)(2) ³	Violation of Law, Unsafe or Unsound Practice, or Breach of Fiduciary Duty:	
	Tier 1	9,623
	Tier 2	48,114
	Tier 3	2 1,924,589
12 U.S.C. 1820(k)(6)(A)(ii)	Violation of Post-Employment Restrictions:	
	Per violation	316,566

U.S. Code citation	CMP description	Maximum penalty amount (in dollars) ¹
12 U.S.C. 1832(c)	Violation of Withdrawals by Negotiable or Transferable Instruments for Transfers to Third Parties: Per violation	2,541
12 U.S.C. 1884	Violation of the Bank Protection Act	279
12 U.S.C. 1972(2)(F)	Violation of Provisions regarding Correspondent Accounts, Unsafe or Unsound Practices, or Breach of Fiduciary Duty: Tier 1 Tier 2 Tier 3	9,623 48,114 2,192,589
15 U.S.C. 78u-2(b)	Violations of Various Provisions of the Securities Act, the Securities Exchange Act, the Investment Company Act, or the Investment Advisers Act: 1st Tier (natural person)—Per violation 1st Tier (other person)—Per violation 2nd Tier (natural person)—Per violation 2nd Tier (other person)—Per violation 3rd Tier (natural person)—Per violation 3rd Tier (other person)—Per violation	9,054 90,535 90,535 452,677 181,071 905,353
15 U.S.C. 1639e(k)	Violation of Appraisal Independence Requirements: First violation Subsequent violations	11,053 22,105
42 U.S.C. 4012a(f)(5)	Flood Insurance: Per violation	2,090

¹ The maximum penalty amount is per day, unless otherwise indicated.

² The maximum penalty amount for a national bank is the lesser of this amount or 1 percent of total assets.

³ These amounts also apply to statutes that cross-reference 12 U.S.C. 1818, such as 12 U.S.C. 2804, 3108, 3349, 4309, and 4717 and 15 U.S.C. 1607, 1681s, 1691c, and 1692l.

(3) *Future inflation adjustments.* Notice of the maximum penalty which may be assessed for the penalties enumerated in paragraph (c)(2) of this section for calendar years after 2017 will be published in the **Federal Register** on an annual basis on or before January 15 of each calendar year based on the formula in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

Dated: January 9, 2017.

Thomas J. Curry,

Comptroller of the Currency.

[FR Doc. 2017-00592 Filed 1-26-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

19 CFR Parts 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 24, 54, 101, 102, 103, 113, 132, 133, 134, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151, 152, 158, 159, 161, 162, 163, 173, 174, 176, and 181

[Docket No. USCBP-2016-0075; CBP Dec. No. 16-26]

RIN 1651-AB02

Regulatory Implementation of the Centers of Excellence and Expertise

AGENCIES: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Interim final rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document provides an additional 60 days for interested parties to submit comments on the interim final rule that amended the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regulations establishing the Centers of Excellence and Expertise (“Centers”) as a permanent organizational component of the agency and transitioning certain additional trade functions to the Centers. The interim final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on December 20, 2016, with comments due on or before January 19, 2017. To have as much public participation as possible in the formulation of the final rule, CBP is extending the comment period to March 20, 2017.

DATES: The comment period for the interim final rule published December 20, 2016, at 81 FR 92978, effective January 19, 2017, is extended. Comments must be received on or before March 20, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments via docket number USCBP-2016-0075.

- *Mail:* Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade, Customs and

Border Protection, 90 K Street NE., 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20229-1177.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this rulemaking. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the “Public Participation” heading of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submitted comments may be inspected during regular business days between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade, Customs and Border Protection, 90 K Street NE., 10th Floor, Washington, DC. Arrangements to inspect submitted comments should be made in advance by calling Mr. Joseph Clark at (202) 325-0118.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori Whitehurst, CBP Office of Field Operations by telephone (202) 344-2536 or by email, lori.j.whitehurst@cbp.dhs.gov; or Susan S. Thomas, CBP Office of Field Operations by telephone (202) 344-2511 or by email, susan.s.thomas@cbp.dhs.gov.