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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### 13 CFR Part 126

RIN 3245–AG92

#### HUBZone and Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) Amendments

**AGENCY:** U.S. Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Direct final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This direct final rule amends the definition of “qualified census tract” in the HUBZone program regulations. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is making this change to its regulations to implement section 412(a) of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA). Section 412(a) of PROMESA amended the definition of “qualified census tract” contained in section 3(p)(4)(A) of the Small Business Act.

**DATES:** This rule is effective on December 22, 2017 without further action, unless significant adverse comment is received by November 22, 2017. If significant adverse comment is received, SBA will publish a timely withdrawal of the rule in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by RIN 3245–AG92 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail or Hand Delivery/Courier:* Mariana Pardo, Director, HUBZone Program, 409 Third Street SW., Washington, DC 20416.

SBA will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. If you wish to submit confidential business information (CBI) as defined in the User Notice at <http://www.regulations.gov>, please submit the information to Mariana Pardo, Director, HUBZone

Program, 409 Third Street SW., Washington, DC 20416 and highlight the information that you consider to be CBI and explain why you believe this information should be held confidential. SBA will review the information and make a final determination of whether the information will be published or not.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mariana Pardo, Director, HUBZone Program, 409 Third Street SW., Washington, DC 20416, 202–205–2985, [hubzone@sba.gov](mailto:hubzone@sba.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 30, 2016, the President signed into law the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA), Public Law 114–187, 130 Stat. 149. Section 412(a) of PROMESA amended the definition of “qualified census tract” (QCT) contained in section 3(p)(4)(A) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 632(p)(4)(A), which is relevant to SBA’s HUBZone program. Amended section 3(p)(4)(A) provides that a QCT is defined as set forth in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except for areas in Puerto Rico, which for a limited time will use the Internal Revenue Code definition without regard to subclause (II) of that definition.

Section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 provides that a QCT is a tract in which either 50 percent or more of the households have an income which is less than 60 percent of the area’s median gross income, or which has a poverty rate of at least 25 percent. However, subclause (II) of section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) sets forth a population cap that limits the portion of a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) which may be designated as a QCT to an area having 20 percent of the population of such MSA. If more than 20 percent of the population in an MSA would otherwise qualify, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) ranks the tracts in that area from highest percentage of eligible households to lowest, and then designates as QCTs those tracts with the highest percentages of eligible households until the 20 percent population cap is reached.

Since PROMESA’s passage, the amended definition of QCT in the Small Business Act provides that the definition of QCT contained in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue

Code shall apply to the HUBZone program—with one enumerated exception. The exception states that the 20 percent population cap shall not apply to census tracts located in Puerto Rico, for a period of 10 years after the date the Administrator implements this clause (or until the Financial Oversight and Management Board for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ceases to exist), whichever event occurs first. This change will result in approximately 516 new HUBZones in Puerto Rico.

This direct final rule merely adopts the statutory change that is specific to Puerto Rico as a conforming amendment. The statutory language is specific, limited and requires no interpretation. As such, SBA expects no significant adverse comments. Based on that fact, SBA has decided to proceed with a direct final rule but giving the public 30 days to comment. If SBA receives a significant adverse comment during the comment period, SBA will withdraw the rule, and proceed with a proposed rule.

In order to implement the change made by section 412(a) of PROMESA, SBA is amending § 126.103 of its regulations by revising the definition of the term “Qualified census tract”. This rule adopts the definition of this term provided in amended section 3(p)(4)(A) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 632(p)(4)(A).

#### Compliance With Executive Orders 12866, 12988, 13132, and 13771, the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Ch. 35) and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612)

##### *Executive Order 12866*

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that this direct final rule does not constitute a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866. This rule is also not a major rule under the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 800.

##### *Executive Order 12988*

This action meets applicable standards set forth in Sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden. The action does not have retroactive or preemptive effect.

*Executive Order 13132*

For the purposes of Executive Order 13132, SBA has determined that this direct final rule will not have substantial, direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, for the purpose of Executive Order 13132, Federalism, SBA has determined that this direct final rule has no federalism implications warranting preparation of a federalism assessment.

*Executive Order 13771*

This final rule is not an E.O. 13771 regulatory action because it is not significant under E.O. 12866.

*Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., Ch. 35*

SBA has determined that this direct final rule does not impose additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35.

*Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601, requires administrative agencies to consider the effect of their actions on small entities, small non-profit enterprises, and small local governments. Pursuant to the RFA, when an agency issues a rulemaking, the agency must prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis which describes the impact of the rule on small entities. However, section 605 of the RFA allows an agency to certify a rule, in lieu of preparing an analysis, if the rulemaking is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Within the meaning of RFA, SBA certifies that this direct final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

**List of Subjects in 13 CFR Part 126**

Administrative practice and procedure, Government procurement, Small businesses.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, SBA amends 13 CFR part 126 as follows:

**PART 126—HUBZONE PROGRAM**

■ 1. The authority for part 126 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 632(a), 632(j), 632(p), 644 and 657a.

■ 2. Amend § 126.103 by revising the definition of “Qualified census tract”, to read as follows:

**§ 126.103 What definitions are important in the HUBZone program?**

\* \* \* \* \*

*Qualified census tract* has the meaning given that term in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. However, for any metropolitan statistical area in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the term “qualified census tract” has the meaning given that term in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as applied without regard to subclause (II) of such section, except that this clause shall apply only until December 22, 2027, or the date on which the Financial Oversight and Management Board for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico created by the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act ceases to exist, whichever event occurs first.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: October 10, 2017.

**Linda E. McMahon,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2017–22935 Filed 10–20–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. FAA–2017–0628; Product Identifier 2016–NM–207–AD; Amendment 39–19079; AD 2017–21–08]

**RIN 2120–AA64**

**Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Model A310 series airplanes. This AD was prompted by a revision of certain airworthiness limitation items (ALI) documents, which require more restrictive maintenance requirements and airworthiness limitations. This AD requires revising the maintenance or inspection program to incorporate the maintenance requirements and airworthiness limitations. We are issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective November 27, 2017.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference

of certain publications listed in this AD as of November 27, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** For service information identified in this final rule, contact Airbus SAS, Airworthiness Office—EAW, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; email [account.airworth-eas@airbus.com](mailto:account.airworth-eas@airbus.com); Internet <http://www.airbus.com>. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425–227–1221. It is also available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–0628.

**Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–0628; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Office (telephone 800–647–5527) is Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA 98057–3356; telephone 425–227–2125; fax 425–227–1149.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Discussion**

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus Model A310 series airplanes. The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2017 (82 FR 29789) (“the NPRM”).

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA Airworthiness Directive 2016–0217, dated November 2, 2016 (referred to after this as the Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information, or “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for all Airbus Model A310 series airplanes. The MCAI states: