

Consideration and a Memorandum for the Record are not required for this rule.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact the person listed in the "For Further Information Contact" section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 33 CFR 1.05–1; and Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

§ 117.879 [Suspended]

■ 2. Suspend § 117.879 effective 6 a.m. on February 26, 2018, through 6 p.m. on July 31, 2019.

■ 3. Add temporary § 117.T879, effective 6 a.m. on February 26, 2018, through 6 p.m. on July 31, 2019, to read as follows:

§ 117.T879 Isthmus Slough.

The draw of the Oregon State secondary highway bridge, mile 1.0, at Coos Bay, shall operate in single leaf, and open half the draw on signal if at least 24 hours notice is given. The vertical clearance of the non-functioning leaf will be reduced up to ten feet.

David G. Throop,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2018–00611 Filed 1–12–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Parts 36 and 668

[Docket ID ED–2018–OGC–0004]

RIN 1801–AA17

Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Final regulations.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) issues these final regulations to adjust the Department's

civil monetary penalties (CMPs) for inflation. An initial "catch-up" adjustment was required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (2015 Act), which amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Inflation Adjustment Act). These final regulations provide the 2018 annual inflation adjustments being made to the penalty amounts in the Department's final regulations published in the **Federal Register** on April 20, 2017 (2017 final rule).

DATES: These regulations are effective January 15, 2018. The adjusted CMPs established by these regulations are applicable only to civil penalties assessed after January 15, 2018, whose associated violations occurred after November 2, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Levon Schlichter, U.S. Department of Education, Office of the General Counsel, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 6E235, Washington, DC 20202–2241. Telephone: (202) 453–6387 or by email: levon.schlichter@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf or a text telephone, call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1–800–877–8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the contact person listed in this section.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A CMP is defined in the Inflation Adjustment Act (28 U.S.C. 2461 note) as any penalty, fine, or other sanction that is (1) for a specific monetary amount as provided by Federal law, or has a maximum amount provided for by Federal law; (2) assessed or enforced by an agency pursuant to Federal law; and (3) assessed or enforced pursuant to an administrative proceeding or a civil action in the Federal courts.

The Inflation Adjustment Act provides for the regular evaluation of CMPs to ensure that they continue to maintain their deterrent value. The Inflation Adjustment Act required that each agency issue regulations to adjust its CMPs beginning in 1996 and at least every four years thereafter. The Department published its most recent cost adjustment to its CMPs in the **Federal Register** on April 20, 2017 (82 FR 18559), and those adjustments became effective on the date of publication.

The 2015 Act (section 701 of Pub. Law 114–74) amended the Inflation

Adjustment Act to improve the effectiveness of CMPs and to maintain their deterrent effect.

The 2015 Act requires agencies to: (1) Adjust the level of CMPs with an initial "catch-up" adjustment through an interim final rule (IFR); and (2) make subsequent annual adjustments for inflation. Catch-up adjustments are based on the percentage change between the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the month of October in the year the penalty was last adjusted by a statute other than the Inflation Adjustment Act, and the October 2015 CPI-U. Annual inflation adjustments are based on the percentage change between the October CPI-U preceding the date of each statutory adjustment, and the prior year's October CPI-U.¹ The Department published an IFR with the initial "catch-up" penalty adjustment amounts on August 1, 2016 (81 FR 50321).

In these final regulations, based on the CPI-U for the month of October 2017, not seasonally adjusted, we are annually adjusting each CMP amount by a multiplier for 2018 of 1.02041, as directed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum No. M–18–03 issued on December 15, 2017.

The Department's Civil Monetary Penalties

The following analysis calculates new CMPs for penalty statutes in the order in which they appear in 34 CFR 36.2. The penalty amounts are being adjusted up based on the multiplier of 1.02041 provided in OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03.

Statute: 20 U.S.C. 1015(c)(5).

Current Regulations: The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1015(c)(5) (Section 131(c)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)), as last set out in statute in 1998 (Pub. Law 105–244, title I, § 101(a), October 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1602), is a fine of up to \$25,000 for failure by an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide information on the cost of higher education to the Commissioner of Education Statistics. In the 2017 final rule, we increased this amount to \$36,849.

New Regulations: The new penalty for this section is \$37,601.

Reason: Using the multiplier of 1.02041 from OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, the new penalty is calculated as follows: $\$36,849 \times 1.02041 = \$37,601.09$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$37,601, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

¹ If a statute that created a penalty is amended to change the penalty amount, the Department does not adjust the penalty in the year following the adjustment.

Statute: 20 U.S.C. 1022d(a)(3).

Current Regulations: The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1022d(a)(3) (Section 205(a)(3) of the HEA), as last set out in statute in 2008 (Pub. Law 110–315, title II, § 201(2), August 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 3147), provides for a fine of up to \$27,500 for failure by an IHE to provide information to the State and the public regarding its teacher-preparation programs. In the 2017 final rule, we increased this amount to \$30,694.

New Regulations: The new penalty for this section is \$31,320.

Reason: Using the multiplier of 1.02041 from OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, the new penalty is calculated as follows: $\$30,694 \times 1.02041 = \$31,320.46$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$31,320, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

Statute: 20 U.S.C. 1082(g).

Current Regulations: The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1082(g) (Section 432(g) of the HEA), as last set out in statute in 1986 (Pub. Law 99–498, title IV, § 402(a), October 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 1401), provides for a fine of up to \$25,000 for violations by lenders and guaranty agencies of Title IV of the HEA, which authorizes the Federal Family Education Loan Program. In the 2017 final rule, we increased this amount to \$54,789.

New Regulations: The new penalty for this section is \$55,907.

Reason: Using the multiplier of 1.02041 from OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, the new penalty is calculated as follows: $\$54,789 \times 1.02041 = \$55,907.24$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$55,907, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

Statute: 20 U.S.C. 1094(c)(3)(B).

Current Regulations: The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1094(c)(3)(B) (Section 487(c)(3)(B) of the HEA), as set out in statute in 1986 (Pub. Law 99–498, title IV, § 407(a), October 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 1488), provides for a fine of up to \$25,000 for an IHE's violation of Title IV of the HEA or its implementing regulations. Title IV authorizes various programs of student financial assistance. In the 2017 final rule, we increased this amount to \$54,789.

New Regulations: The new penalty for this section is \$55,907.

Reason: Using the multiplier of 1.02041 from OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, the new penalty is calculated as follows: $\$54,789 \times 1.02041 = \$55,907.24$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$55,907, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

Statute: 20 U.S.C. 1228c(c)(2)(E).

Current Regulations: The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1228c(c)(2)(E) (Section 429 of the General Education Provisions Act), as set out in statute in 1994 (Pub. Law

103–382, title II, § 238, October 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 3918), provides for a fine of up to \$1,000 for an educational organization's failure to disclose certain information to minor students and their parents. In the 2017 final rule, we increased this amount to \$1,617.

New Regulations: The new penalty for this section is \$1,650.

Reason: Using the multiplier of 1.02041 from OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, the new penalty is calculated as follows: $\$1,617 \times 1.02041 = \$1,650.00$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$1,650, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

Statute: 31 U.S.C. 1352(c)(1) and (c)(2)(A).

Current Regulations: The CMPs for 31 U.S.C. 1352(c)(1) and (c)(2)(A), as set out in statute in 1989, provide for a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for recipients of Government grants, contracts, etc. that improperly lobby Congress or the Executive Branch with respect to the award of Government grants and contracts. In the 2017 final rule, we increased these amounts to \$19,246 to \$192,459.

New Regulations: The new penalties for these sections are \$19,639 to \$196,387.

Reason: Using the multiplier of 1.02041 from OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, the new minimum penalty is calculated as follows: $\$19,246 \times 1.02041 = \$19,638.81$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$19,639, when rounded to the nearest dollar. The new maximum penalty is calculated as follows: $\$192,459 \times 1.02041 = \$196,387.09$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$196,387, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

Statute: 31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1) and (a)(2).

Current Regulations: The CMPs for 31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1) and (a)(2), as set out in statute in 1986 (Pub. Law 99–509, title VI, § 6103(a), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1937), provide for a fine of up to \$5,000 for false claims and statements made to the Government. In the 2017 final rule, we increased this amount to \$10,957.

New Regulations: The new penalty for this section is \$11,181.

Reason: Using the multiplier of 1.02041 from OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, the new penalty is calculated as follows: $\$10,957 \times 1.02041 = \$11,180.63$, which makes the adjusted penalty \$11,181, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 13771

Regulatory Impact Analysis

Under Executive Order 12866, the Secretary must determine whether this

regulatory action is “significant” and, therefore, subject to the requirements of the Executive order and subject to review by OMB. Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 defines a significant regulatory action as an action likely to result in a rule that may—

(1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely affect a sector of the economy; productivity; competition; jobs; the environment; public health or safety; or State, local, or Tribal governments or communities in a material way (also referred to as “economically significant” regulations);

(2) Create serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;

(3) Materially alter the budgetary impacts of entitlement grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles stated in the Executive order.

We have determined that these final regulations: (1) Exclusively implement the annual adjustment; (2) are consistent with OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03; and (3) have an annual impact of less than \$100 million. Therefore, based on OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03, this is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by OMB under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866.

We have also reviewed these regulations under Executive Order 13563, which supplements and explicitly reaffirms the principles, structures, and definitions governing regulatory review established in Executive Order 12866. To the extent permitted by law, Executive Order 13563 requires that an agency—

(1) Propose or adopt regulations only upon a reasoned determination that their benefits justify their costs (recognizing that some benefits and costs are difficult to quantify);

(2) Tailor its regulations to impose the least burden on society, consistent with obtaining regulatory objectives and taking into account, among other things, and to the extent practicable, the costs of cumulative regulations;

(3) In choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, select those approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity);

(4) To the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than the behavior or manner of compliance a regulated entity must adopt; and

(5) Identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including economic incentives—such as user fees or marketable permits—to encourage the desired behavior, or providing information that enables the public to make choices.

Executive Order 13563 also requires an agency “to use the best available techniques to quantify anticipated present and future benefits and costs as accurately as possible.” The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB has emphasized that these techniques may include “identifying changing future compliance costs that might result from technological innovation or anticipated behavioral changes.”

We are issuing these final regulations as required by statute and in accordance with OMB Memorandum No. M–18–03. The Secretary has no discretion to consider alternative approaches as delineated in the Executive order. Based on this analysis and the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department believes that these final regulations are consistent with the principles in Executive Order 13563.

Under Executive Order 13771, if the Department proposes for notice and comment or otherwise promulgates a new regulation that is a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866 and that imposes total costs greater than zero, it must identify two existing regulations for elimination. For fiscal year 2018, any new incremental costs associated with the new regulation must be fully offset by the elimination of existing costs through the repeal of at least two regulations. These final regulations are not a significant regulatory action. Therefore, the requirements of Executive Order 13771 do not apply.

Waiver of Rulemaking and Delayed Effective Date

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, section 4(b)(2) of the 2015 Act (28 U.S.C. 2461 note) provides that the Secretary can adjust these 2018 penalty amounts notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code. Therefore, the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553 for notice and comment and delaying the effective date of a final rule do not apply here.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The formula for the amount of the inflation adjustments is prescribed by statute and is not subject to the Secretary’s discretion. These CMPs are infrequently imposed by the Secretary, and the regulations do not involve any special considerations that might affect the imposition of CMPs on small entities.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

These regulations do not contain any information collection requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

Assessment of Educational Impact

Based on our own review, we have determined that these regulations do not require transmission of information that any other agency or authority of the United States gathers or makes available.

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the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

List of Subjects in 34 CFR Part 36

Claims, Fraud, Penalties.

Dated: January 10, 2018.

Betsy DeVos,
Secretary of Education.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Secretary amends parts 36 and 668 of title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 36—ADJUSTMENT OF CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR INFLATION

■ 1. The authority citation for part 36 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e–3 and 3474; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, as amended by section 701 of Pub. Law 114–74, unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. Section 36.2 is amended by revising Table I to read as follows:

§ 36.2 Penalty adjustment.

* * * * *

TABLE I—SECTION 36.2.—CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS

Statute	Description	New maximum (and minimum, if applicable) penalty amount
20 U.S.C. 1015(c)(5) (Section 131(c)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA)).	Provides for a fine, as set by Congress in 1998, of up to \$25,000 for failure by an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide information on the cost of higher education to the Commissioner of Education Statistics.	\$37,601.
20 U.S.C. 1022d(a)(3) (Section 205(a)(3) of the HEA)	Provides for a fine, as set by Congress in 2008, of up to \$27,500 for failure by an IHE to provide information to the State and the public regarding its teacher-preparation programs.	\$31,320.
20 U.S.C. 1082(g) (Section 432(g) of the HEA)	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1986, of up to \$25,000 for violations by lenders and guaranty agencies of Title IV of the HEA, which authorizes the Federal Family Education Loan Program.	\$55,907.
20 U.S.C. 1094(c)(3)(B) (Section 487(c)(3)(B) of the HEA)	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1986, of up to \$25,000 for an IHE’s violation of Title IV of the HEA, which authorizes various programs of student financial assistance.	\$55,907.

TABLE I—SECTION 36.2.—CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS—Continued

Statute	Description	New maximum (and minimum, if applicable) penalty amount
20 U.S.C. 1228c(c)(2)(E) (Section 429 of the General Education Provisions Act).	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1994, of up to \$1,000 for an educational organization's failure to disclose certain information to minor students and their parents.	\$1,650.
31 U.S.C. 1352(c)(1) and (c)(2)(A)	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1989, of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for recipients of Government grants, contracts, etc. that improperly lobby Congress or the Executive Branch with respect to the award of Government grants and contracts.	\$19,639 to \$196,387.
31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1) and (a)(2)	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1986, of up to \$5,000 for false claims and statements made to the Government.	\$11,181.

* * * * *

PART 668—STUDENT ASSISTANCE GENERAL PROVISIONS

■ 3. The authority citation for part 668 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1001–1003, 1070a, 1070g, 1085, 1087b, 1087d, 1087e, 1088, 1091, 1092, 1094, 1099c, and 1099c–1, 1221e–3, and 3474; Pub. L. 111–256, 124 Stat. 2643; unless otherwise noted.

§ 668.84 [Amended]

■ 4. Section 668.84 is amended by, in paragraph (a), removing the number “\$27,500” and adding, in its place, the number “\$55,907”.

[FR Doc. 2018–00614 Filed 1–12–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

36 CFR Part 2

[NPS–WASO–23396; GPO Deposit Account 4311H2]

RIN 1024–AE32

General Regulations; Areas of the National Park System, Free Distribution of Other Message-Bearing Items

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service revises its general rule governing the sale or distribution of printed matter to include the free distribution of message-bearing items that do not meet the regulatory definition of “printed matter.” This change gives visitors an additional channel of communication while protecting the resources and values of the National Park System.

DATES: This rule is effective on February 15, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lee Dickinson, Special Park Use Program Manager, at (202) 513–7092 or *lee_dickinson@nps.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Authority and Jurisdiction To Promulgate Regulations

In the National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act (54 U.S.C. 100101), Congress granted the NPS broad authority to regulate the use of areas under its jurisdiction. The Organic Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the NPS, to “prescribe such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary or proper for the use and management of [National Park] System units.” 54 U.S.C. 100751(a).

National Park System

Consisting of over 400 units in 50 states, the District of Columbia and multiple territories, the National Park System covers more than 84 million acres. These units are located in a wide range of environments as diverse as the United States itself. The size of these units also varies tremendously, ranging from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and National Preserve, Alaska, at 13.2 million acres, to Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, Pennsylvania, at 0.02 acres.

About one-third of the units—such as Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee; Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona; Everglades National Park, Florida; and Hawaii Volcanoes National Parks, Hawaii—preserve nature’s many and varied gifts to the nation. The other two-thirds of the units recognize benchmarks of human history in America. These units protect elements of great native cultures, far older than European exploration and settlement;

preserve battle sites from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars—including the key surrender fields of both great conflicts; embrace Thomas Edison’s New Jersey laboratories where he and his staff led a technological revolution more dramatic even than the coming of the computer age; and more. These historical park units reflect the development of both art and industry in America, along with landmarks of social and political change.

As a broader understanding of history took hold, the National Park System eventually grew to include the historic homes of civil rights, political, and corporate leaders, and the lands of the poor, struggling to build lives for themselves on a Nebraska homestead claim or in an urban community. The National Park System now embraces the birthplace, church, and grave of Dr. Martin Luther King at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Site, Georgia; the birth of jazz at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, Louisiana; the flowering of a literary giant at the Eugene O’Neill National Historical Site, California; and the artistic grace of a great sculptor’s studios at Saint-Gaudens National Historical Site, New Hampshire. Because of the lessons they help us remember, the National Park System also includes the Japanese American World War II internment camp in the desert at Manzanar National Historical Site, California, as well as Andersonville National Historical Site, Georgia, one of the very bleakest of the Civil War prison sites.

The National Park System is habitat for 247 threatened or endangered species, has more than 167 million items in museum collections, has 75,000 archaeological sites, and 27,000 historic and prehistoric structures. The National Park System also has an extensive physical infrastructure, which includes thousands of buildings, tens of thousands of miles of trails and roads,