

published in a notice in the **Federal Register**.

(a) *Initial guarantee fee.* The Agency will establish and charge an initial guarantee fee of up to one percent of the guarantee amount. For purposes of calculating this fee, the guarantee amount is the product of the percentage of the guarantee times the initial principal amount of the guaranteed loan.

(b) *Annual guarantee fee.* An annual guarantee fee will be charged, as established by the Agency, each year or portion of a year that the guarantee is in effect. This fee is due no later than February 28, of each calendar year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Elizabeth Green,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2020-25822 Filed 12-2-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P**

## **BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION**

### **12 CFR Chapter X**

[Docket No. CFPB-2020-0019]

#### **Advisory Opinions Policy**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

**ACTION:** Procedural rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) is issuing its final Advisory Opinions Policy (Advisory Opinions Policy), which sets forth procedures to facilitate the submission by interested parties of requests that the Bureau issue advisory opinions, in the form of interpretive rules, to resolve regulatory uncertainty, and the manner in which the Bureau will evaluate and respond to such requests.

**DATES:** The Advisory Opinions Policy was applicable beginning November 30, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information about the Advisory Opinions Policy contact Jaydee DiGiovanni and Shelley Thompson, Counsels; and Adetola Adenuga, Regulatory Implementation and Guidance Specialist, at 202-435-7158. If you require this document in an alternative electronic format, please contact [CFPB\\_Accessibility@cfpb.gov](mailto:CFPB_Accessibility@cfpb.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 22, 2020, the Bureau published and sought public comment on a proposal (Advisory Opinions Proposal) for a new Bureau policy on advisory opinions and simultaneously launched a pilot

advisory opinion program (Pilot Advisory Opinions program).<sup>1</sup> This notice finalizes the Advisory Opinions Proposal as the Advisory Opinions Policy (Advisory Opinions Policy). Part I provides some background on the Bureau's guidance functions and related statutory authorities. Part II sets out the final text of the Advisory Opinions Policy. Part III reviews the comments received on the Advisory Opinions Proposal and describes the changes the Bureau has made in the final Advisory Opinions Policy. Parts IV through VI address additional regulatory matters.

#### **I. Background**

Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act),<sup>2,3</sup> the Bureau's "primary functions" include issuing guidance implementing Federal consumer financial law. Providing clear and useful guidance to regulated entities is an important aspect of facilitating markets that serve consumers.

The Bureau currently issues several types of guidance regarding the statutes that it administers, as well as implementing regulations and Official Interpretations. For example, the Bureau issues "Compliance Aids" that present legal requirements in a manner that is useful for compliance professionals, other industry stakeholders, and the public, or that include practical suggestions for how entities might choose to comply with those requirements.<sup>4</sup> The Bureau also provides individualized "implementation support" to regulated entities through its Regulatory Inquiries Function (RIF).<sup>5</sup> Neither Compliance Aids nor the RIF are intended to interpret ambiguities in legal requirements. The Bureau also may issue interpretive rules, which provide guidance on the Bureau's regulations or governing statutes, and which in some situations may provide a safe harbor to regulated entities that are in compliance with the Bureau's interpretive rule.<sup>6</sup>

The Bureau initiated its policy for issuing advisory opinions in response to

<sup>1</sup> See Advisory Opinions Pilot, 85 FR 37394 (June 22, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Public Law 111-203, 124 stat. 2081 (2010).

<sup>3</sup> See 12 U.S.C. 5511(c)(5).

<sup>4</sup> See Policy Statement on Compliance Aids, 85 FR 4579 (Jan. 27, 2020).

<sup>5</sup> See Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Request for Information Regarding Bureau Guidance and Implementation Support (Guidance RFI), 83 FR 13959, 13961-62 (Apr. 2, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> E.g., Treatment of Pandemic Relief Payments Under Regulation E and Application of the Compulsory Use Prohibition, 85 FR 23217 (Apr. 27, 2020); Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Screening and Training Requirements for Mortgage Loan Originators with Temporary Authority, 84 FR 63791 (Nov. 19, 2019).

feedback received from external stakeholders in the 2018 Guidance RFI, encouraging the Bureau to provide written guidance in cases of regulatory uncertainty. The final Advisory Opinions Policy supersedes the pilot Advisory Opinions Program.<sup>7</sup> Similar to the advisory opinion programs of many other federal agencies, the Advisory Opinions Policy is intended to facilitate timely guidance by the Bureau that enables compliance by resolving outstanding regulatory uncertainty. The Advisory Opinions Policy supports the Bureau's statutory purpose of ensuring consumers have access to markets for consumer financial products and services, and that markets for consumer financial products and services are fair, transparent, and competitive.<sup>8</sup>

#### **II. Final Text of the Advisory Opinions Policy**

##### *A. Overview*

The primary purpose of this Advisory Opinions Policy is to establish procedures to facilitate the submission by interested parties of requests that the Bureau issue advisory opinions and the manner in which the Bureau will evaluate and respond to such requests. Advisory opinions will be interpretive rules issued to resolve regulatory uncertainty.<sup>9</sup>

##### *B. Submission and Content of Requests*

Requests for advisory opinions should be submitted via email to [advisoryopinion@cfpb.gov](mailto:advisoryopinion@cfpb.gov) or through other means designated by the Bureau. The Bureau will not consider a request for an advisory opinion to be complete unless the request includes all of the information specified in the following paragraphs.

1. *Confidential information:* The request must identify information the requestor believes should be treated as confidential. If the requestor would not normally make the information public, the Bureau intends to withhold that information from public disclosure to the extent permitted by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b), and treat the information as confidential in accordance with the Bureau's regulations on Disclosure of Records

<sup>7</sup> Because the Advisory Opinions Policy replaces the pilot, no further requests may be submitted for the pilot as of November 30, 2020. Requests submitted under the pilot that are pending as of that date will continue to be considered by the Bureau.

<sup>8</sup> See 12 U.S.C. 5511(a).

<sup>9</sup> For convenience, this document uses the term "regulatory uncertainty" to encompass uncertainty with respect to regulatory or, where applicable, statutory provisions.

and Information.<sup>10</sup> Requests should not include sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, or names of individuals.

2. *Identity of person or entity seeking the advisory opinion.* The request must identify the person or entity seeking the advisory opinion, as well as the identity of any person or entity submitting the request on behalf of a third party (*i.e.*, one or more clients or members). Outside counsel, a trade association, or a consumer advocacy group, for example, may submit requests for advisory opinions on behalf of one or more clients or members, and those entities do not need to be identified.

3. *Statement about the absence of investigation or litigation.* The request must include a statement that the issue on which the advisory opinion is being requested is—or is not—the subject of any known or reasonably knowable active litigation or Federal or State agency investigation. Additionally, if the requestor is submitting a request on behalf of an unidentified third party, the requestor must provide a statement that the unidentified third party is—or is not—the subject of an ongoing public Bureau enforcement action or an ongoing Bureau enforcement investigation.

4. *Specifics about the issue on which the advisory opinion is sought.* The issue raised in the request must be within the Bureau's purview,<sup>11</sup> and the request must concern actual facts or a course of action that the requestor (or third party) is engaged in, or considering engaging in. The request must set forth as completely as possible, all material facts and circumstances, including detailed specification of the legal question(s) and supporting facts with respect to which the requestor seeks an advisory opinion. The request must also identify the regulatory or statutory provision at issue and the potential uncertainty or ambiguity that the proposed interpretation would address, provide a proposed interpretation of law or regulation, and explain why the proposed interpretation is an appropriate resolution of that

uncertainty or ambiguity.<sup>12</sup> Requestors may also choose to offer additional information, including, as applicable, an explanation of the potential consumer benefits and risks associated with resolution of the interpretive question and the proposed interpretation; and an explanation of how the proposed interpretation relates to the Bureau's statutory objectives.<sup>13</sup>

Alternatively, in some cases the Bureau may decide to issue an advisory opinion based on questions the Bureau receives from the public, through other channels, that are not requests for advisory opinions.<sup>14</sup>

#### C. Characteristics of Advisory Opinions

Advisory Opinions issued by the Bureau under the Advisory Opinions Policy will be interpretive rules under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA)<sup>15</sup> that respond to a specific need for clarity on a statutory or regulatory interpretive question. The Bureau will publish advisory opinions in the **Federal Register** and on *consumerfinance.gov*, including a summary of the material facts or covered products and the Bureau's legal analysis of the issue.

Unless otherwise stated, each advisory opinion will be applicable to the requestor and to similarly situated parties to the extent that their situations conform to the summary of material facts or coverage in the advisory opinion. The scope and terms of an advisory opinion will be set out in the advisory opinion itself, and may deviate from the interpretation proposed by the requestor in its submission.<sup>16</sup> Moreover, the Bureau will not normally investigate the underlying facts of the requestor's situation and, as a result, an advisory opinion may not be applicable to the requestor if the underlying facts of the

requestor's situation do not conform to the summary of material facts.

If a statutory safe harbor is applicable to an advisory opinion, the advisory opinion will explain that fact. The Truth in Lending Act (TILA), Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), Electronic Fund Transfer Act (EFTA), and Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) provide certain protections from liability for acts or omissions done in good faith in conformity with an interpretation by the Bureau.<sup>17</sup> The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) contains similar protections, specifically using the term "advisory opinion."<sup>18</sup>

#### D. Factors in Bureau Selection of Topics for Advisory Opinions

The Bureau intends to consider the following factors as part of its consideration of whether to address requests for advisory opinions.<sup>19</sup> The Bureau will prioritize open questions if they are within the Bureau's purview that can legally be addressed through an interpretive rule and if an advisory opinion is an appropriate tool relative to other Bureau tools for answering the question. Initial factors weighing for the appropriateness of an advisory opinion include: (1) The interpretive issue has been noted during prior Bureau examinations as one that might benefit from additional regulatory clarity; (2) the issue is one of significant importance or one whose clarification would provide significant benefit; and/or (3) the issue concerns an ambiguity that the Bureau has not previously addressed through an interpretive rule or other authoritative source. Factors weighing strongly for presumption that an advisory opinion is not an appropriate tool include: (1) The interpretive issue is the subject of an ongoing Bureau investigation or enforcement action; (2) the interpretive issue is the subject of an ongoing or planned rulemaking; (3) the issue is better suited for notice-and-comment rulemaking; (4) the issue could be addressed more effectively through a Compliance Aid or the RIF function; or (5) there is clear existing Bureau or court precedent that is available to the public on the issue.

The Bureau intends to further evaluate requests for advisory opinions

<sup>12</sup> The responsive advisory opinion will not necessarily adopt the requestor's proposed interpretation. The Bureau retains the discretion to answer requests with its own interpretation regardless of the requestor's proposed interpretation.

<sup>13</sup> Requestors should describe relevant legal provisions and arguments with as much specificity as practicable. The Bureau recognizes that in some cases, the requestor may lack the legal resources to provide a detailed and complete showing. In such circumstances, the requestor should provide the maximum specification practicable under the circumstances and explain the limits on further specification.

<sup>14</sup> In that situation, references in this Advisory Opinions Policy to the requestor or request are inapplicable. Note that the Bureau may also issue interpretive rules outside the framework of the Advisory Opinions Policy, including deciding to issue advisory opinions on its own initiative.

<sup>15</sup> 5 U.S.C. 553(b).

<sup>16</sup> Thus, the initial request drafted by the requestor is not necessarily a reliable guide to the scope and terms of the advisory opinion.

<sup>17</sup> See 15 U.S.C. 1640(f) (TILA); 15 U.S.C. 1691e(e) (ECOA); 15 U.S.C. 1693m(d) (EFTA); 12 U.S.C. 2617, 12 CFR 1024.4 (RESPA).

<sup>18</sup> See 15 U.S.C. 1692(k)(e).

<sup>19</sup> The following are factors that the Bureau intends to weigh when deciding which topics to prioritize in the Advisory Opinions Policy, based on all of the information available to the Bureau. Advisory opinion requests need not address these factors in order to be fully considered by the Bureau.

<sup>10</sup> 12 CFR part 1070.

<sup>11</sup> Under title X of the Dodd-Frank Act (the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010), the Bureau was created to regulate the offering and provision of consumer financial products and services under federal consumer financial laws. 12 U.S.C. 5881. The Act enumerates several consumer laws under the Bureau's jurisdiction (in part or whole). 12 U.S.C. 5841(12). Note that the Bureau's Regulation J provides a separate procedure for advisory opinions regarding certain issues under the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act. See 12 CFR 1010.17.

based on secondary factors, including: Alignment with the Bureau's statutory objectives; size of the benefit offered to consumers by resolution of the interpretive issue; known impact on the actions of other regulators; and impact on available Bureau resources. The Bureau will primarily focus on the following statutory objectives: (1) Consumers are provided with timely and understandable information to make responsible decisions about financial transactions; (2) outdated, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome regulations are regularly identified and addressed in order to reduce unwarranted regulatory burdens; (3) Federal consumer financial law is enforced consistently, without regard to the status of a person as a depository institution, in order to promote fair competition; and (4) markets for consumer financial products and services operate transparently and efficiently to facilitate access and innovation.<sup>20</sup>

The Bureau will focus primarily on clarifying ambiguities in its regulations, although Advisory Opinions may clarify statutory ambiguities. The Bureau will not issue advisory opinions on issues that require, or are better addressed through, a legislative rulemaking under the APA.<sup>21</sup> For example, the Bureau does not intend to issue an advisory opinion that would change regulation text or commentary. Similarly, if a regulation or statute establishes a general standard that can only be applied through highly fact-intensive analysis, the Bureau does not intend to replace that analysis with a bright-line standard that eliminates all of the required analysis. Highly fact-intensive applications of general standards, such as the statutory prohibition on unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices, pose particular challenges for issuing advisory opinions, although there may be times when the Bureau is able to offer advisory opinions that provide additional clarity on the meaning of such standards.

<sup>20</sup> See 12 U.S.C. 5511(b)(1), (3)–(5). The Bureau has a further statutory objective, that consumers are protected from unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts and practices and from discrimination. 12 U.S.C. 5511(b)(2). The Bureau considers this objective to be at least as important as its other objectives, and it does not plan to issue an advisory opinion that is in conflict with this objective. But because other regulatory tools are often more suitable for addressing UDAAPs and discrimination, the Bureau has chosen not to highlight this objective as a primary focus when selecting issues for the Advisory Opinions Policy.

<sup>21</sup> 5 U.S.C. 553(b).

### E. Public Input

Advisory opinions will be issued and final upon publication in the **Federal Register**. However, interested persons may provide input on published advisory opinions at any time by sending an email to [advisoryopinion@cfpb.gov](mailto:advisoryopinion@cfpb.gov) or through other means designated by the Bureau. The Bureau is particularly interested in input that addresses whether an advisory opinion would benefit from clarification or reconsideration, with information about the factual or legal basis for clarification or reconsideration.

## III. Discussion of Comments and Changes in the Final Advisory Opinions Policy

### A. Overview

The Bureau solicited comments on the Advisory Opinions Proposal. The Bureau received 16 unique comments, 13 of which were submitted by industry trade associations. A consortium of 7 consumer advocacy groups submitted a joint comment letter. The remaining comments were provided by staff of the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) and one anonymous submitter. The Bureau has made certain changes to the Advisory Opinions Policy based on the comments, as discussed below, as well as other changes to the Advisory Opinions Policy for clarity.

### B. General Comments

Industry commenters uniformly supported the Advisory Opinions Proposal, as did the anonymous commenter. These commenters generally stated that the issuance by the Bureau of advisory opinions could aid in compliance in situations where there are statutory and regulatory uncertainties. Conversely, the joint comment letter by certain consumer advocacy groups generally opposed the Advisory Opinions Proposal and argued that the Bureau should abandon it. The Bureau has carefully considered this comment letter, but contrary to the group's assertions, and as discussed below the Bureau concludes that issuing interpretive rules in the form of advisory opinions is consistent with the APA or with the Bureau's statutory authorities. The Bureau also does not agree that advisory opinions are not an appropriate use of Bureau resources. Advisory opinions represent a commitment of resources by the Bureau that will help entities better understand their obligations under Federal consumer financial law. If an advisory opinion makes clear the law applies, it will promote compliance with the law

that will prevent consumer harm. If an advisory opinion makes clear the law does not apply, it will avoid regulated entities incurring unnecessary compliance costs.

### C. Legality of Advisory Opinions Policy

The consumer advocacy group comments stated that issuing interpretive rules in the form of advisory opinions are inconsistent with the APA and with the Bureau's statutory authorities. The Bureau disagrees with this assertion. As proposed, the advisory opinions are interpretive rules under the APA.<sup>22</sup> Nevertheless, the Bureau revised the phrase in the proposed Advisory Opinions Policy that states that "substantive importance or impact" is one of a list of factors that the Bureau intends to consider in part II.D so that it reads "significant importance." This change is intended to address the commenter's concern that the phrase might be read to suggest that the Bureau intends to issue advisory opinions that are substantive rules rather than interpretive rules under the APA.

### D. Role of Public Input

The Bureau received a number of comments from stakeholders expressing interest in a mechanism for soliciting public input on advisory opinions, either before or after issuance. Some commenters advocated that the Bureau obtain such input from the public before issuing advisory opinions. The Bureau notes that there is nothing in the Advisory Opinions Policy that would prevent the Bureau from soliciting input on a draft advisory opinion before finalizing, if the Bureau believes it would be appropriate for a given advisory opinion. However, the Bureau declines to adopt this as a uniform requirement for advisory opinions. Such a process is not typical of peer financial regulators' advisory opinion policies.<sup>23</sup> It could unnecessarily delay the process of issuing advisory opinions, and thus inhibit the ability of the Bureau to promptly provide clarity about its own regulations and the statutes that it administers.

However, the Bureau does agree that providing a mechanism for the public to provide feedback after an advisory opinion is issued could be useful. Accordingly, the Bureau has added new part II.E to the Advisory Opinions Policy to provide that any person may comment on an advisory opinion via email to [advisoryopinion@cfpb.gov](mailto:advisoryopinion@cfpb.gov) or through other means designated by the

<sup>22</sup> See 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3).

<sup>23</sup> E.g., 16 CFR 1.2–1.6 (Federal Trade Commission).

Bureau. The Bureau encourages any stakeholders including, but not limited to, industry representatives and consumer advocates, to submit such feedback in an instance where stakeholders believe the Bureau should clarify or reconsider an advisory opinion.

#### E. Accuracy of Requests

Certain consumer advocacy group commenters expressed concern that the requestor's presentation of the issue might be inaccurate or misleading. However, the Bureau emphasizes that it expects requestors to provide truthful submissions to the Bureau. While it is possible that the submitting party may provide inaccurate or misleading facts, doing so would put at great risk the benefit the requester might obtain from an advisory opinion. The Advisory Opinions Policy specifically explains that "an advisory opinion may not be applicable to the requestor if the underlying facts of the requestor's situation do not conform to the Bureau's summary of material facts" in the advisory opinion. The Bureau concludes that this disincentive is sufficient to address the concern commenters have raised. For the same reason, the Bureau does not believe it is necessary to require requestors to include an affirmation that the information provided is accurate, as some commenters suggested.

#### F. Follow-Up by Requestors

Some commenters asked the Bureau to provide a mechanism for requestors to modify or rescind pending advisory opinion requests. The Bureau notes that it would be consistent with the Advisory Opinions Policy for a requestor to amend or withdraw a pending request.

If the Bureau informs a requestor that it has not chosen to issue an advisory opinion, some commenters advocated that the Bureau create a specific procedure for the requestor to appeal or request reconsideration of that decision. The Bureau does not believe adding a specific procedure to address that possibility is necessary, because the Advisory Opinions Policy would allow a requestor to renew its request a subsequent time if it wants to bring new facts, law, or other considerations to the Bureau's attention.

#### G. Third-Party Requests

Part II.B of the Advisory Opinions Proposal stated that the Bureau would accept advisory opinion requests from trade associations, service providers, and other third parties; however, the Advisory Opinions Proposal noted that

if the requestor is submitting a request on behalf of an unidentified third party, the requestor must provide a statement on whether the unidentified third party is the subject of an ongoing public Bureau enforcement action or an ongoing Bureau enforcement investigation conducted by the Bureau's Office of Enforcement.<sup>24</sup> This statement was in addition to the general requirement that any requestor provide a statement of whether the issue on which the advisory opinion is being requested is the subject of any known or reasonably knowable active litigation or Federal or State agency investigations. Trade association commenters generally supported the Bureau's proposal to allow third parties to request advisory opinions. These commenters stated that allowing third parties to facilitate requests would increase access to advisory opinions, in particular for smaller entities that might otherwise lack the resources to request an advisory opinion.

Certain consumer advocacy groups opposed the proposal to allow requests on behalf of third parties. These commenters argued that the Bureau would have insufficient details about the underlying facts of the third party's situation. The Bureau agrees that it is possible for requests on behalf of a third party, like any type of request, to include insufficient facts for the Bureau to reach a legal conclusion. However, that would be a potential reason for denying an individual request, not entirely closing off this potential source of requests for advisory opinions.

These commenters also asserted that the Bureau must know the identity of the third party in order to avoid interference with litigation or enforcement-related proceedings. However, the Bureau concludes that the categorical, express representations that the requestor would need to make under the Advisory Opinions Policy are sufficient to alert the Bureau to those proceedings of which the Bureau would not otherwise be aware that are likely to be relevant to a potential advisory opinion and about which further Bureau inquiry may be warranted. The Bureau is finalizing the required statements, with non-substantive wording changes in part II.B of the Advisory Opinions Policy.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> 85 FR 37394 (June 22, 2020).

<sup>25</sup> One commenter suggested that the Bureau provide sample language that requestors can use when making these required statements. The Bureau has instead made non-substantive edits to how the required statements are set out in part II.B of the Advisory Opinions Policy, so that requestors can choose to comply by using the applicable language in the Advisory Opinions Policy verbatim.

#### H. Rescission of Advisory Opinions

It is, of course, possible that the Bureau may decide it is appropriate to rescind an advisory opinion. One commenter emphasized that, if an advisory opinion is rescinded, no action should be taken against those institutions who acted in good faith in accordance with the advisory opinion. The Bureau notes that several statutes provide protections from liability for acts or omissions done in good faith in conformity with an interpretation by the Bureau, as detailed in the text of the Advisory Opinions Policy. And of course, in addition to any applicable safe harbors, the Bureau would not expect to retroactively impose punishments on persons who conformed their conduct in good faith to an advisory opinion before the advisory opinion was rescinded. Doing so would raise serious concerns under the Due Process Clause, which restricts such retroactive relief.

#### I. Confidentiality of Material in Advisory Opinion Requests

Part II.B of the Advisory Opinions Proposal explained that where information submitted to the Bureau is information the requestor would not normally make public, the Bureau intends to treat it as confidential pursuant to its rule, Disclosure of Records and Information, to the extent applicable.<sup>26</sup>

Industry commenters were broadly supportive of this approach. However, certain consumer advocacy groups asserted that this statement is in tension with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). To be clear, the Bureau will treat information that it receives in accordance with FOIA, including the FOIA exemption at 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) that applies to confidential business information. Information that is subject to a FOIA exemption also will be treated as confidential in accordance with the Bureau's rule on Disclosure of Records and Information, 12 CFR part 1070. The confidentiality assurance in the proposed policy reflects the standard for determining applicability of the exemption at 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), established by the United States Supreme Court in *Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media dba Argus Leader*, 139 S. Ct. 2356 (2019). To make this clearer, the Bureau revises the policy to state explicitly that the information will be treated in accordance with FOIA.

<sup>26</sup> 12 CFR 1070.

### J. Other Comments on Specific Implementation Issues

The Bureau received comments on a number of other subjects. These include comments on the structure of the Bureau's internal deliberative process for considering advisory opinion requests; timelines for deciding advisory opinion requests; details of how the Bureau should communicate with requestors after the Bureau receives their requests, such as what the Bureau should say in the letters that it sends denying requests; general outreach that commenters recommend that the Bureau conduct with outside bodies or groups; recommendations regarding the types of requests the Bureau should prioritize; and details of how the Bureau should post advisory opinions on its website.

The Bureau appreciates receiving commenters' views on all aspects of the program. However, the Bureau has decided not to expand the scope of the Advisory Opinions Policy, which is intended to establish the general procedures of the program, to cover these specific implementation issues. Instead, the Bureau will consider these comments as it proceeds with implementation of the Advisory Opinions Policy.

### IV. Regulatory Requirements

This Advisory Opinions Policy is a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice, and it is therefore exempt from the notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements of the APA.<sup>27</sup> For the same reason, it is not subject to the 30-day delayed effective date for substantive rules under the APA.<sup>28</sup> Because no notice of proposed rulemaking is required, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not require an initial or final regulatory flexibility analysis.<sup>29</sup>

### V. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) requires that Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The information collection requirements as contained in this final Policy and identified below have been approved by OMB and assigned the OMB control number 3170-0072. OMB's approval will expire on November 30, 2023.

<sup>27</sup> 5 U.S.C. 553(b).

<sup>28</sup> 5 U.S.C. 553(d).

<sup>29</sup> 5 U.S.C. 603(a), 604(a).

The Bureau's Advisory Opinions Proposal, published June 22, 2020, sought comment on these information collection requirements. While the Bureau received numerous comments on the Advisory Opinions Proposal, which are addressed above, the Bureau received no comments specifically regarding the burden estimates or the utility or appropriateness of these information collections. Additional details on comments received can be found in the Supporting Statement for the related 30-day notice published as required under the PRA.<sup>30</sup>

A complete description of the information collection requirements, including the burden estimate methods, is provided in the information collection request (ICR) that the Bureau submitted to OMB under the requirements of the PRA. The ICR submitted to OMB requesting approval under the PRA for the information collection requirements contained herein is available at OMB's public-facing docket at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/>.

### VI. Signing Authority

The Director of the Bureau, Kathleen L. Kraninger, having reviewed and approved this document, is delegating the authority to electronically sign this document to Grace Feola, a Bureau Federal Register Liaison, for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: November 30, 2020.

#### Grace Feola,

*Federal Register Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.*

[FR Doc. 2020-26661 Filed 12-2-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-AM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2020-1031; Project Identifier AD-2020-00846-T; Amendment 39-21334; AD 2020-24-04]

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all The

Boeing Company Model 787-8, 787-9, and 787-10 airplanes. This AD requires revising the existing airplane flight manual (AFM) to incorporate procedures for conducting an approach with a localizer-based navigation aid, monitoring localizer raw data, calling out any significant deviations, and performing an immediate go around if the airplane has not intercepted the final approach course as shown by the localizer deviation. This AD was prompted by reports that the autopilot flight director system (AFDS) failed to transition to the instrument landing system localizer (LOC) beam after the consistent localizer capture function in the flight control modules initiated a transition to capture LOC during approach. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective December 18, 2020.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by January 19, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- **Fax:** 202-493-2251.

- **Mail:** U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- **Hand Delivery:** Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this final rule, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminister Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; telephone 562-797-1717; internet <https://www.myboeingfleet.com>. You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195. It is also available on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2020-1031.

#### Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2020-1031; or in person at Docket Operations

<sup>30</sup> See <https://beta.regulations.gov/docket/CFPB-2020-0019>.