

Dated: February 22, 2022.

**Lauren K. Roth,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2022-04154 Filed 2-28-22; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

#### 21 CFR Part 1141

[Docket No. FDA-2019-N-3065]

RIN 0910-AI39

#### Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements; Delayed Effective Date

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Final rule; delay of effective date.

**SUMMARY:** As required by an order issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, this action delays the effective date of the final rule (“Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements”), which published on March 18, 2020. The new effective date is April 9, 2023.

**DATES:** The effective date of the rule amending 21 CFR part 1141 published at 85 FR 15638, March 18, 2020, and delayed at 85 FR 32293, May 29, 2020; 86 FR 3793, January 15, 2021; 86 FR 36509, July 12, 2021; 86 FR 50855, September 13, 2021; and 86 FR 70052, December 9, 2021, is further delayed until April 9, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Courtney Smith, Office of Regulations, Center for Tobacco Products, Food and Drug Administration, Document Control Center, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 71, Rm. G335, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 1-877-287-1371, email: [CTPRegulations@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CTPRegulations@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the **Federal Register** of March 18, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) issued a final rule establishing new cigarette health warnings for cigarette packages and advertisements. The final rule implements a provision of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act) (Pub. L. 111-31) that requires FDA to issue regulations requiring color graphics depicting the negative health consequences of smoking to accompany new textual warning label statements. The Tobacco Control Act amends the Federal Cigarette Labeling and

Advertising Act of 1965 (Pub. L. 89-92) to require each cigarette package and advertisement to bear one of the new required warnings. The final rule specifies the 11 new textual warning label statements and accompanying color graphics. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the Tobacco Control Act, the rule was published with an effective date of June 18, 2021, 15 months after the date of publication of the final rule.

On April 3, 2020, the final rule was challenged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.<sup>1</sup> On May 8, 2020, the court granted a joint motion to govern proceedings in that case and postpone the effective date of the final rule by 120 days.<sup>2</sup> On December 2, 2020, the court granted a new motion by the plaintiffs to postpone the effective date of the final rule by an additional 90 days.<sup>3</sup> On March 2, 2021, the court granted another motion by the plaintiffs to postpone the effective date of the final rule by an additional 90 days.<sup>4</sup> On May 21, 2021, the court granted another motion by the plaintiffs to postpone the effective date of the final rule by an additional 90 days.<sup>5</sup> On August 18, 2021, the court issued an order to postpone the effective date of the final rule by an additional 90 days.<sup>6</sup> On November 12, 2021, the court issued another order to postpone the effective date of the final rule by an additional 90 days.<sup>7</sup> On February 10, 2022, the court issued another order to postpone the effective date of the final rule by an additional 90 days.<sup>8</sup> The court ordered that the new effective date of the final rule is April 9, 2023. Pursuant to the court order, any obligation to comply with a deadline tied to the effective date is similarly postponed, and those obligations and deadlines are now tied to the postponed effective date.

<sup>1</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. et al. v. United States Food and Drug Administration et al.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. filed April 3, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. May 8, 2020) (order granting joint motion and establishing schedule), Doc. No. 33.

<sup>3</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. December 2, 2020) (order granting Plaintiffs’ motion and postponing effective date), Doc. No. 80.

<sup>4</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. March 2, 2021) (order granting Plaintiffs’ motion and postponing effective date), Doc. No. 89.

<sup>5</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. May 21, 2021) (order granting Plaintiffs’ motion and postponing effective date), Doc. No. 91.

<sup>6</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. August 18, 2021) (order postponing effective date), Doc. No. 92.

<sup>7</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. November 12, 2021) (order postponing effective date), Doc. No. 93.

<sup>8</sup> *R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 6:20-cv-00176 (E.D. Tex. February 10, 2022) (order postponing effective date), Doc. No. 94.

To the extent that 5 U.S.C. 553 applies to this action, the Agency’s implementation of this action without opportunity for public comment, effective immediately upon publication in the **Federal Register**, is based on the good cause exception in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). Seeking public comment is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest. The 90-day postponement of the effective date, until April 9, 2023, is required by court order in accordance with the court’s authority to postpone a rule’s effective date pending judicial review (5 U.S.C. 705). Seeking prior public comment on this postponement would have been impracticable, as well as contrary to the public interest in the orderly issuance and implementation of regulations.

Dated: February 23, 2022.

**Lauren K. Roth,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### 26 CFR Part 300

[TD 9962]

RIN 1545-BQ06

#### User Fees Relating to the Enrolled Agent Special Enrollment Examination and the Enrolled Retirement Plan Agent Special Enrollment Examination

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Final regulations.

**SUMMARY:** These final regulations amend existing regulations relating to the user fees for the special enrollment examinations for enrolled agents and enrolled retirement plan agents. The final regulations increase the amount of the user fee for each part of the special enrollment examination for enrolled agents (EA SEE). The final regulations also remove the user fee for the special enrollment examination for enrolled retirement plan agents (ERPA SEE) because the IRS no longer offers the ERPA SEE or new enrollment as an enrolled retirement plan agent. The final regulations affect individuals taking the EA SEE. The Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1952 authorizes charging user fees.

**DATES:** *Effective date:* These regulations are effective March 31, 2022.

*Applicability date:* For the date of applicability, see § 300.4(d).