

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Office of the Secretary****43 CFR Part 2**

[DOI-2023-0008;234D0104IG, DG10100000, DIG000000.000000]

RIN 1090-AB27

Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for Investigative Records**AGENCY:** Office of Inspector General, Interior.**ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior (DOI) is issuing a final rule to amend its regulations to exempt certain records in the INTERIOR/OIG-02, Investigative Records, system of records from one or more provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 because of criminal, civil, and administrative law enforcement requirements.

DATES: The final rule is effective January 12, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teri Barnett, Departmental Privacy Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Room 7112, Washington, DC 20240, DOI_Privacy@ios.doi.gov or (202) 208-1605.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

DOI published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** at 88 FR 44748 (July 13, 2023) proposing to exempt portions of the INTERIOR/OIG-02, Investigative Records, system of records from certain provisions of the Privacy Act pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(1), (k)(3), and (k)(5) because this system of records contains material that support activities related to investigations. The revised INTERIOR/OIG-02, Investigative Records, system of records notice (SORN) was published in the **Federal Register** at 88 FR 44827 (July 13, 2023). Comments were invited on both the INTERIOR/OIG-02 SORN and NPRM. DOI received no comments on the SORN and two general comments on the NPRM, which are posted on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) for public viewing. The comments are not substantive, therefore, the NPRM will be implemented as proposed.

Procedural Requirements**1. Regulatory Planning and Review**
(Executive Orders 12866, 14094 and 13563)

Executive Order 14094 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866 and E.O. 13563 and states that regulatory analysis should facilitate agency efforts to develop regulations that serve the public interest, advance statutory objectives, and are consistent with E.O. 12866, E.O. 13563, and the Presidential Memorandum of January 20, 2021 (Modernizing Regulatory Review). Regulatory analysis, as practicable and appropriate, shall recognize distributive impacts and equity, to the extent permitted by law. E.O. 13563 emphasizes further that regulations must be based on the best available science and that the rulemaking process must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas. We have developed this final rule in a manner consistent with these requirements.

E.O. 12866, as reaffirmed by E.O. 13563 and E.O. 14094, provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will review all significant rules. OIRA has determined that this rule is not significant.

2. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of the Interior certifies that this document will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-121)). This rule does not impose a requirement for small businesses to report or keep records on any of the requirements contained in this rule. The exemptions to the Privacy Act apply to individuals, and individuals are not covered entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2). This rule:

(a) Does not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more.

(b) Will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions.

(c) Does not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

3. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

This rule does not impose an unfunded mandate on State, local, or Tribal governments in the aggregate, or on the private sector, of more than \$100 million per year. The rule does not have a significant or unique effect on State, local, or Tribal governments or the private sector. This rule makes only minor changes to 43 CFR part 2. A statement containing the information required by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*) is not required.

4. Takings (E.O. 12630)

In accordance with Executive Order 12630, this rule will not have significant takings implications. This rule makes only minor changes to 43 CFR part 2. A takings implication assessment is not required.

5. Federalism (E.O. 13132)

In accordance with Executive Order 13132, this rule does not have any federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment. The rule is not associated with, nor will it 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. A Federalism Assessment is not required.

6. Civil Justice Reform (E.O. 12988)

This rule complies with the requirements of Executive Order 12988. Specifically, this rule:

(a) Does not unduly burden the Federal judicial system.

(b) Meets the criteria of section 3(a) requiring that all regulations be reviewed to eliminate errors and ambiguity and be written to minimize litigation; and

(c) Meets the criteria of section 3(b)(2) requiring that all regulations be written in clear language and contain clear legal standards.

7. Consultation With Indian Tribes (E.O. 13175)

In accordance with Executive Order 13175, the Department of the Interior has evaluated this rule and determined that it would have no substantial effects on Federally Recognized Indian Tribes.

8. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not require an information collection from 10 or more parties and a submission under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) is not required.

9. National Environmental Policy Act

This rule does not constitute a major Federal Action significantly affecting the quality for the human environment. A detailed statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq., is not required because the rule is covered by a categorical exclusion. We have determined the rule is categorically excluded under 43 CFR 46.210(i) because it is administrative, legal, and technical in nature. We also have determined the rule does not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR 46.215 that would require further analysis under NEPA.

10. Effects on Energy Supply (E.O. 13211)

This rule is not a significant energy action under the definition in Executive Order 13211. A Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

11. Clarity of This Regulation

We are required by Executive Order 12866 and 12988, the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-274), and the Presidential Memorandum of June 1, 1998, to write all rules in plain language. This means each rule we publish must:

- Be logically organized;
- Use the active voice to address readers directly;
- Use clear language rather than jargon;
- Be divided into short sections and sentences; and
- Use lists and tables wherever possible.

List of Subjects in 43 CFR Part 2

Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential information, Courts, Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department of the Interior proposes to amend 43 CFR part 2 as follows:

PART 2—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT; RECORDS AND TESTIMONY

■ 1. The authority citation for part 2 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301, 552, 552a, 553; 31 U.S.C. 3717; 43 U.S.C. 1460, 1461, the Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017, Pub. L. 115-59, September 15, 2017.

■ 2. Amend § 2.254 by adding paragraphs (b)(3), (d)(3), (e)(8) to read as follows:

§ 2.254 Exemptions.

- * * * * *
- (b) * * *

(3) INTERIOR/OIG-02, Investigative Records.

(d) * * *

(3) INTERIOR/OIG-02, Investigative Records.

(e) * * *

(8) INTERIOR/OIG-02, Investigative Records.

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Teri Barnett,

Departmental Privacy Officer, Department of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 2024-00588 Filed 1-11-24; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 1

[DA 23-1198; FR ID 196408]

Annual Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties To Reflect Inflation

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Inflation Adjustment Act) requires the Federal Communications Commission to amend its forfeiture penalty rules to reflect annual adjustments for inflation in order to improve their effectiveness and maintain their deterrent effect. The Inflation Adjustment Act provides that the new penalty levels shall apply to penalties assessed after the effective date of the increase, including when the penalties whose associated violation predate the increase.

DATES:

Effective date: The rule is effective January 12, 2024.

Applicability date: The civil monetary penalties are applicable beginning January 15, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter S. Hyun, Chief of Staff and Deputy Bureau Chief, Enforcement Bureau, at Peter.Hyun@fcc.gov or 202-418-2019.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Order, DA 23-1198, adopted and released on December 22, 2023. The complete text of this document is available for download at https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-23-1198A1.pdf. To request this document in accessible formats for people with disabilities (e.g., Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format, etc.) or to request reasonable accommodations (e.g., accessible format documents, sign

language interpreters, CART, etc.), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice).

Synopsis

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 included, as section 701 thereto, the Inflation Adjustment Act, which amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-410), to improve the effectiveness of civil monetary penalties and maintain their deterrent effect. Under the Inflation Adjustment Act, agencies are required to make annual inflationary adjustments by January 15 each year, beginning in 2017. The adjustments are calculated pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance. OMB issued guidance on December 19, 2023, and this Order follows that guidance. The Commission therefore updates the civil monetary penalties for 2024, to reflect an annual inflation adjustment based on the percent change between each published October's CPI-U; in this case, October 2023 CPI-U (307.671)/October 2022 CPI-U (298.012) = 1.03241. The Commission multiplies 1.03241 by the most recent penalty amount and then rounds the result to the nearest dollar.

For 2024, the adjusted penalty or penalty range for each applicable penalty is calculated by multiplying the most recent penalty amount by the 2024 annual adjustment (1.03241), then rounding the result to the nearest dollar. The adjustments in civil monetary penalties that we adopt in this Order apply only to such penalties assessed on and after January 15, 2024.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document does not contain new or modified information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13. It does not contain any new or modified information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees, pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4).

Congressional Review Act

The Commission has determined, and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, concurs that this rule is non-major under the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 804(2). The Commission will send a copy of this Order to Congress and the Government Accountability Office pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).