

### Signing Authority

The Director of OPM, Scott Kupor, reviewed and approved this document and has authorized the undersigned to electronically sign and submit this document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

**Jerson Matias,**

*Federal Register Liaison.*

Accordingly, OPM amends part 315 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

### PART 315—CAREER AND CAREER-CONDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

■ 1. The authority citation for part 315 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 1302, 3301, and 3302. E.O. 10577, 19 FR 7521, 3 CFR, 1954–1958 Comp., p. 218; E.O. 14284, 90 FR 17729.

Secs. 315.601 and 315.609 also issued under 22 U.S.C. 3651 and 3652.

Secs. 315.602 and 315.604 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 1104.

Sec. 315.603 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8151.

Sec. 315.605 also issued under 22 U.S.C. 2051, 42 U.S.C. 2991.

Sec. 315.606 also issued under E.O. 11219, 30 FR 6381, 3 CFR, 1964–1965 Comp., p. 303.

Sec. 315.607 also issued under 22 U.S.C. 2560.

Sec. 315.608 also issued under E.O. 12721, 55 FR 31349, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 293.

Sec. 315.610 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 3304(c).

Sec. 315.611 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 3304(f).

Sec. 315.612 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 3330d.

Sec. 315.613 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 9602.

Sec. 315.710 also issued under E.O. 12596, 52 FR 17537, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 264.

Subpart I also issued under 5 U.S.C. 3321, E.O. 12107, 44 FR 1055, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 264.

### Subpart F—[Amended]

■ 2. Amend § 315.614 by:

■ a. Revising paragraphs (b) and (c);

■ b. In the first sentence of paragraph (e) introductory text, removing “, and thus” and adding in its place “; and”;

■ c. Revising paragraphs (h) through (j); and

■ d. Removing paragraph (k).

The revisions read as follows:

### § 315.614 Hiring authority for college graduates.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Eligibility.* An eligible college graduate is defined as an individual who:

(1) Has received a baccalaureate or graduate degree from an institution of higher education as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1001(a) and has applied for the position being filled under the authority in this section (using the date on which the application is received by the hiring agency as the date of submission), either:

(i) Not later than two years after the date on which the individual received their degree described in paragraph (b)(1) introductory text of this section; or

(ii) Not later than two years after the date on which the individual was released or discharged from an intervening period of obligated service of not less than four years of full-time active-duty uniformed service; and

(2) Meets the qualification standards prescribed or approved by OPM for the position to which the individual is being appointed.

(c) *Qualifications.* Agencies must evaluate eligible college graduates using the OPM-prescribed qualification standard, or an OPM-approved agency-specific qualification standard, for the position being filled.

\* \* \* \* \*

(h) *Tenure upon appointment.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section becomes a career-conditional employee unless the appointee has already satisfied the requirements for career tenure or is excepted from it pursuant to § 315.201(c).

(i) *Numerical limit on the number of appointments.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (i)(2) of this section, the total number of individuals that an agency may appoint under this authority during a fiscal year (FY) may not exceed 15 percent of the number of individuals that the agency appointed during the previous FY to a position in the competitive service classified in a professional or administrative occupational category, at the GS–11 level or below, or equivalent, under a competitive examining procedure. An appointing agency may not count appointments made using direct hire authorities, non-competitive authorities, excepted service authorities, or selections under merit promotion authorities, when establishing the limit for a given fiscal year. In calculating this limitation, agencies must round up or down to the nearest whole number, if necessary, to eliminate a decimal place. Values ending in “.5” or more may be rounded up to the nearest whole

number in determining an agency’s cap limitation. Values ending in less than “.5” should be rounded down to the nearest whole number in determining an agency’s cap limitation.

(2) During any given fiscal year, OPM may establish a lower limitation on the number of individuals that may be appointed under paragraph (i)(1) of this section based on any factor OPM considers appropriate. OPM shall notify agencies via the OPM website and other venues (such as the Chief Human Capital Officer’s Council) of any changes to the numerical limitation, applicable governmentwide. Changes to the numerical limit for an individual agency will be communicated directly to the agency.

(j) *Special provisions for Department of Defense.* This section does not apply to the Department of Defense during the period that section 1106 of Public Law 114–328, as amended by section 1116 of Public Law 118–31 (see 10 U.S.C. note prec. 1580), or that any applicable successor statute, is effective.

[FR Doc. 2026–03354 Filed 2–19–26; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### 15 CFR Part 50

[Docket No. 260213–0046]

RIN 0607–AA73

### Streamlining the Regulations Governing Requests for Special Census Services and Studies

**AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Department of Commerce (Department).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** By this rule, the Census Bureau is amending its regulations governing requests and establishing fee structures for special census services and studies. This action is necessary to eliminate obsolete provision and streamline the Census Bureau’s regulations. This action is intended to promote simplicity and efficiency and to reduce the possibility of public confusion.

**DATES:** The rule is effective February 20, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel Sweeney, Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, at (202) 482–1395.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action amends the Census Bureau’s regulations at 15 CFR part 50, which

govern requests and establish fee structures for special census services and studies. The regulations at part 50 purport to implement 15 U.S.C. 1525, which generally authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to perform special services and furnish special records “upon the payment of the actual or estimated cost of such special work,” and 13 U.S.C. 8, which similarly authorizes the Secretary to furnish transcripts or copies of reports in connection with surveys and censuses “upon payment of the actual or estimated cost of searching the records and furnishing such transcripts or copies.” The regulatory framework established by part 50 was first promulgated by final rule on January 4, 1963 (28 FR 120), and was subsequently amended several times between then and 2004 (January 20, 1971, 36 FR 905; February 1, 1984, 49 FR 3980; July 29, 1991, 56 FR 35815; July 18, 2003, 68 FR 42586; July 30, 2004, 69 FR 45580). This action amends part 50 again in three ways.

First, this action removes § 50.1(a). That subsection currently reads as follows: “Fee structure for age search and citizenship service, special population censuses, and for foreign trade and shipping statistics.” Upon review, the Department has determined that this incomplete introductory sentence creates a risk of confusion and also is unnecessary, given the sufficiently explanatory contents of § 50.1(b) and other subsequent sections.

Second, this action removes § 50.30. That section established a fee structure for foreign trade and shipping statistics. However, that section is now obsolete, as the Census Bureau no longer charges fees for such services. The removal of § 50.30 will therefore ensure that the Census Bureau’s regulations are accurate and up-to-date.

Third, this action removes § 50.40. That section established a fee structure for statistics for city blocks for the 1980 census of population and housing. That section is now plainly obsolete and no longer serves any meaningful purpose. The removal of § 50.40 will simplify part 50 and reduce the possibility of unnecessary confusion and/or distraction.

Overall, these three changes will simplify and streamline part 50 and reduce the possibility of public confusion—thereby promoting efficiency—without substantively altering any obligations of the Census Bureau or public rights.

## Regulatory Classifications

### A. Administrative Procedure Act

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Department finds good cause to waive the prior notice and opportunity for public participation requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act for this final rule. The Department has determined that prior notice and opportunity for public participation is unnecessary because this rule only removes regulatory language that is not required by statute and that is plainly obsolete and/or clearly poses an unnecessary risk of public confusion; the obsolete and unnecessary nature of the regulatory language at issue will not be cured by any public comment. The Department has also determined that delaying the removal of this regulatory language for the sake of carrying out the notice and comment process would be contrary to the public interest, as the language being removed no longer serves any meaningful function but does pose a risk of confusion and distraction. The Department therefore finds good cause to waive the public notice and comment period under 553(b)(B) and, for the same reason, to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness under 553(d).

### B. Executive Orders 12866, 14192, 13132

The Office of Management and Budget has determined this rule is not significant pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 12866. This rule is an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action. This rule does not contain policies having federalism implications as the term is defined in E.O. 13132.

### C. Regulatory Flexibility Act

Because a notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity for public participation are not required to be given for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are not applicable. Accordingly, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required, and none has been prepared.

### D. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule will not impose additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

### List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 50

Administrative practice and procedure, Census data, Citizenship and naturalization, Fees, Foreign trade, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, State and local governments, Statistics.

George M. Cook, Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Director of the Census Bureau, approved the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Census Bureau amends 15 CFR part 50 to read as follows:

## PART 50—SPECIAL SERVICES AND STUDIES BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

- 1. The authority citation for part 50 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 1525–1527 and 13 U.S.C. 3 and 8.

### § 50.1 [Amended]

- 2. Amend § 50.1 by removing and reserving paragraph (a).

### § 50.30 [Removed and Reserved]

- 3. Remove and reserve § 50.30.

### § 50.40 [Removed and Reserved]

- 4. Remove and reserve § 50.40.

Dated: February 17, 2026.

**Shannon Wink,**

*Program Analyst, Policy Coordination Office,  
U.S. Census Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 2026–03384 Filed 2–19–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–07–P**

## FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

### 29 CFR Part 2700

#### Procedural Rules; Correction

**AGENCY:** Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

**ACTION:** Correcting amendments.

**SUMMARY:** On Friday, January 17, 2025, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission (the “Commission”) revised the Commission’s procedural rules governing administrative trial and appellate review of cases arising under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (the “Mine Act”). That document contains an incorrect date and a typographical error. This document corrects the final regulations.

**DATES:** Effective February 20, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rory P. Smith, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20004 (202)525–8649.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document corrects two of the final rules