

Collective (ASB 505–21–20), BHT–505–FM–1, Temporary Revision (TR–6) or Bell 505 RFM TR for Pilot Collective (ASB 505–21–20), BHT–505–FM–2, Temporary Revision (TR–1), each dated March 3, 2021, as applicable to your helicopter. Using a different document with information identical to the information for the “Flight Crew” and “Configuration,” as applicable to your helicopter, in the RFM TR specified in this paragraph for your helicopter is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this paragraph. This action may be performed by the owner/operator (pilot) holding at least a private pilot certificate and must be entered into the aircraft records showing compliance with this AD in accordance with § 43.9(a)(1) through (4) and § 91.417(a)(2)(v). The record must be maintained as required by § 91.417, § 121.380, or § 135.439.

(2) Before further flight after the effective date of this AD, and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 25 hours time-in-service:

(i) Remove the pilot collective stick and grip assembly from the jackshaft assembly and clean the areas specified in Figure 2 of Bell Alert Service Bulletin 505–21–20, Revision B, dated March 3, 2021 (ASB 505–21–20 Rev B) with a clean cloth C–516C or equivalent moistened with dry cleaning solvent C–304 or equivalent.

(ii) Perform a fluorescent penetrant inspection (FPI) for a crack by following the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 5. (but not paragraphs 5.a. and b.) of ASB 505–21–20 Rev B. Perform this FPI in the areas specified in Figure 2 of ASB 505–21–20 Rev B. If there is a crack, before further flight, remove the pilot collective stick and grip assembly from service.

(3) Within 10 days after the discovery of any crack, report the information specified in paragraph 5.a. of ASB 505–21–20 Rev B to Bell Product Support Engineering at productsupport@bellflight.com.

(4) As of the effective date of this AD, do not install any pilot collective stick and grip assembly on any helicopter unless the actions required by paragraphs (g)(2)(i) and (ii) have been accomplished.

(5) As of the effective date of this AD, relief under any Master Minimum Equipment List or Minimum Equipment List for the Audio Panel is prohibited when the aircraft is operated with a single pilot.

(h) Credit for Previous Actions

If you performed an FPI of the pilot collective stick and grip assembly before the effective date of this AD using Bell Alert Service Bulletin 505–21–20, dated February 20, 2021, or Bell Alert Service Bulletin 505–21–20, Revision A, dated February 26, 2021, you met the before further flight FPI requirement of paragraph (g)(2) of this AD.

(i) Special Flight Permits

A special flight permit to a maintenance facility may be granted provided that:

- (1) There are no passengers on-board,
- (2) The helicopter is flown from the copilot seat only, and
- (3) The GMA (intercom) is operative.

(j) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation office, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(k) Related Information

(1) Hal Jensen, Aerospace Engineer, Operational Safety Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA National Headquarters, 950 L'Enfant Plaza N SW, Washington, DC 20024; telephone (202) 267–9167; email hal.jensen@faa.gov.

(2) The subject of this AD is addressed in Transport Canada Emergency AD CF–2021–05R2, dated March 4, 2021. You may view the Transport Canada AD on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FAA–2021–0144.

(l) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Bell Alert Service Bulletin 505–21–20, Revision B, dated March 3, 2021.

(ii) Bell 505 Rotorcraft Flight Manual Temporary Revision for Pilot Collective (ASB 505–21–20), BHT–505–FM–1, Temporary Revision (TR–6), dated March 3, 2021.

(iii) Bell 505 Rotorcraft Flight Manual Temporary Revision for Pilot Collective (ASB 505–21–20), BHT–505–FM–2, Temporary Revision (TR–1), dated March 3, 2021.

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Bell Textron Canada Limited, 12,800 Rue de l'Avenir, Mirabel, Quebec J7J1R4; telephone (450) 437–2862 or (800) 363–8023; fax (450) 433–0272; or at <https://www.bellcustomer.com>.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, email: fedreg.legal@nara.gov, or go to: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued on March 10, 2021.

Lance T. Gant,

Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–05513 Filed 3–12–21; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

24 CFR Parts 28, 30, 87, 180, and 3282

[Docket No. FR–6252–F–01]

Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts for 2021

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, HUD.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule provides for 2021 inflation adjustments of civil monetary penalty amounts required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015.

DATES: Effective April 15, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Aaron Santa Anna, Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20024; telephone number 202–402–5138 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing- or speech-impaired individuals may access this number via TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 800–877–8339 (this is a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (the 2015 Act) (Pub. L. 114–74, Sec. 701), which further amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101–410), requires agencies to make annual adjustments to civil monetary penalty (CMP) amounts for inflation “notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code.” Section 553 refers to the Administrative Procedure Act, which provides for advance notice and public comment during the rulemaking process. However, as explained in Section III below, HUD has determined that advance notice and public comment on this final rule is unnecessary.

This annual adjustment is for 2021. The annual adjustment is based on the percent change between the U.S. Department of Labor’s Consumer Price

Index for All Urban Consumers (“CPI–U”) for the month of October preceding the date of the adjustment, and the CPI–U for October of the prior year (28 U.S.C. 2461 note, section (5)(b)(1)). Based on that formula, the cost-of-living adjustment multiplier for 2021 is 1.01182.¹ Pursuant to the 2015 Act, adjustments are rounded to the nearest dollar.²

II. This Final Rule

This final rule makes the required 2021 inflation adjustment of HUD’s civil

money penalty amounts. Since HUD is not applying these adjustments retroactively, the 2021 increases apply to violations occurring on or after this rule’s effective date. HUD provides a table showing how, for each component, the penalties are being adjusted for 2021 pursuant to the 2015 Act. In the first column (“Description”), HUD provides a description of the penalty. In the second column (“Statutory Citation”), HUD provides the United States Code statutory citation providing for the

penalty. In the third column (“Regulatory Citation”), HUD provides the Code of Federal Regulations citation under Title 24 for the penalty. In the fourth column (“Previous Amount”), HUD provides the amount of the penalty pursuant to the rule implementing the 2020 adjustment (85 FR 13041, April 06, 2020). In the fifth column (“2021 Adjusted Amount”), HUD lists the penalty after applying the 2021 inflation adjustment.

Description	Statutory citation	Regulatory citation (24 CFR)	Previous amount	2021 adjusted amount
False Claims	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1)).	§ 28.10(a)	\$11,665	\$11,803.
False Statements	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3802 (a)(2)).	§ 28.10(b)	\$11,665	\$11,803.
Advance Disclosure of Funding	Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3537a(c)).	§ 30.20	\$20,489	\$20,731.
Disclosure of Subsidy Layering	Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3545(f)).	§ 30.25	\$20,489	\$20,731.
FHA Mortgagees and Lenders Violations.	HUD Reform Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1735f–14(a)(2)).	§ 30.35	Per Violation: \$10,245; Per Year: \$2,048,915.	Per Violation: \$10,366; Per Year: \$2,073,133.
Other FHA Participants Violations	HUD Reform Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1735f–14(a)(2)).	§ 30.36	Per Violation: \$10,245; Per Year: \$2,048,915.	Per Violation: \$10,366; Per Year: \$2,073,133.
Indian Loan Mortgagees Violations	Housing Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a(g)(2)).	§ 30.40	Per Violation: \$10,245; Per Year: \$2,048,915.	Per Violation: \$10,366; Per Year: \$2,073,133.
Multifamily & Section 202 or 811 Owners Violations.	HUD Reform Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1735f–15(c)(2)).	§ 30.45	\$51,222	\$51,827
Ginnie Mae Issuers & Custodians Violations.	HUD Reform Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1723i(a)).	§ 30.50	Per Violation: \$10,245; Per Year: \$2,048,915.	Per Violation: \$10,366; Per Year: \$2,073,133.
Title I Broker & Dealers Violations	HUD Reform Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1703).	§ 30.60	Per Violation: \$10,245; Per Year: \$2,048,915.	Per Violation: \$10,366; Per Year: \$2,073,133.
Lead Disclosure Violation	Title X—Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4852d(b)(1)).	§ 30.65	\$18,149	\$18,364.
Section 8 Owners Violations	Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437z–1(b)(2)).	§ 30.68	\$39,811	\$40,282.
Lobbying Violation	The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (31 U.S.C. 1352).	§ 87.400	Min: \$20,489; Max: \$204,892	Min: \$20,731; Max: \$207,314.
Fair Housing Act Civil Penalties	Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3612(g)(3)).	§ 180.671(a)	No Priors: \$21,410; One Prior: \$53,524; Two or More Priors: \$107,050.	No Priors: \$21,663; One Prior: \$54,157; Two or More Priors: \$108,315.
Manufactured Housing Regulations Violation.	Housing Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5410).	§ 3282.10	Per Violation: \$2,976; Per Year: \$3,719,428.	Per Violation: \$3,011; Per Year: \$3,763,392.

III. Justification for Final Rulemaking for the 2021 Adjustments

HUD generally publishes regulations for public comment before issuing a rule for effect, in accordance with its own regulations on rulemaking in 24 CFR part 10. However, part 10 provides for exceptions to the general rule if the agency finds good cause to omit advanced notice and public participation. The good cause requirement is satisfied when prior public procedure is “impractical,

unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest” (see 24 CFR 10.1). As discussed, this final rule makes the required 2021 inflation adjustment, which HUD does not have discretion to change. Moreover, the 2015 Act specifies that a delay in the effective date under the Administrative Procedure Act is not required for annual adjustments under the 2015 Act. HUD has determined, therefore, that it is unnecessary to delay the effectiveness of

the 2021 inflation adjustments to solicit public comments.

Section 7(o) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(o)) requires that any HUD regulation implementing any provision of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 that authorizes the imposition of a civil money penalty may not become effective until after the expiration of a public comment period of not less than 60 days. This rule does not authorize

¹ Office of Management and Budget, M–21–10, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Implementation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2021, Pursuant to

the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015. (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/>

M-21-10.pdf). (October 2020 CPI–U (260.388)/ October 2019 CPI–U (257.346) = 1.01182.)

² 28 U.S.C. 2461 note.

the imposition of a civil money penalty—rather, it makes a standard inflation adjustment to penalties that were previously authorized. As noted above, the 2021 inflation adjustments are made in accordance with a statutorily prescribed formula that does not provide for agency discretion. Accordingly, a delay in the effectiveness of the 2021 inflation adjustments in order to provide the public with an opportunity to comment is unnecessary because the 2015 Act exempts the adjustments from the need for delay, the rule does not authorize the imposition of a civil money penalty, and, in any event, HUD would not have the discretion to make changes as a result of any comments.

IV. Findings and Certifications

Regulatory Review—Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) (58 FR 51735), a determination must be made whether a regulatory action is significant and, therefore, subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the requirements of the order. Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulations and Regulatory Review) (76 FR 3821) directs executive agencies to analyze regulations that are “outmoded, ineffective, insufficient, or excessively burdensome, and to modify, streamline, expand, or repeal them in accordance with what has been learned.” Executive Order 13563 also directs that, where relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives, and to the extent permitted by law, agencies are to identify and consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public. As discussed above in this preamble, this final rule adjusts existing civil monetary penalties for inflation by a statutorily required amount. HUD determined that this rule was not significant under Executive Order 12866 and Executive Order 13563.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) generally requires an agency to conduct a regulatory flexibility analysis of any rule subject to notice and comment rulemaking requirements, unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Because HUD has determined that good cause exists to issue this rule without prior public comment, this rule is not subject to the

requirement to publish an initial or final regulatory flexibility analysis under the RFA as part of such action.

Unfunded Mandates Reform

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA)³ requires that an agency prepare a budgetary impact statement before promulgating a rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year. If a budgetary impact statement is required, section 205 of UMRA also requires an agency to identify and consider a reasonable number of regulatory alternatives before promulgating a rule.⁴ However, the UMRA applies only to rules for which an agency publishes a general notice of proposed rulemaking. As discussed above, HUD has determined, for good cause, that prior notice and public comment is not required on this rule and, therefore, the UMRA does not apply to this final rule.

Executive Order 13132, Federalism

Executive Order 13132 (entitled “Federalism”) (64 FR 43255) prohibits an agency from publishing any rule that has federalism implications if the rule either imposes substantial direct compliance costs on State and local governments and is not required by statute, or the rule preempts State law, unless the agency meets the consultation and funding requirements of section 6 of the Executive Order. This rule will not have federalism implications and would not impose substantial direct compliance costs on State and local governments or preempt State law within the meaning of the Executive order.

Environmental Review

This final rule does not direct, provide for assistance or loan and mortgage insurance for, or otherwise govern, or regulate, real property acquisition, disposition, leasing, rehabilitation, alteration, demolition, or new construction, or establish, revise, or provide for standards for construction or construction materials, manufactured housing, or occupancy. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(1), this final rule is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

³ 2 U.S.C. 1532.

⁴ 2 U.S.C. 1535.

List of Subjects

24 CFR Part 28

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Fraud, Penalties.

24 CFR Part 30

Administrative practice and procedure, Grant programs—housing and community development, Loan programs—housing and community development, Mortgage insurance, Penalties.

24 CFR Part 87

Government contracts, Grant programs, Loan programs, Lobbying, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

24 CFR Part 180

Administrative practice and procedure, Aged, Civil rights, Fair housing, Persons with disabilities, Investigations, Mortgages, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

24 CFR Part 3282

Administrative practice and procedure, Consumer protection, Intergovernmental relations, Manufactured homes, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, for the reasons described in the preamble, HUD amends 24 CFR parts 28, 30, 87, 180, and 3282 to read as follows:

PART 28—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM FRAUD CIVIL REMEDIES ACT OF 1986

■ 1. The authority citation for part 28 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 2461 note; 31 U.S.C. 3801–3812; 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

■ 2. In § 28.10, revise paragraphs (a)(1) introductory text and (b)(1) introductory text to read as follows:

§ 28.10 Basis for civil penalties and assessments.

(a) * * *. (1) A civil penalty of not more than \$11,803 may be imposed upon any person who makes, presents, or submits, or causes to be made, presented, or submitted, a claim that the person knows or has reason to know:

* * * * *

(b) * * *. (1) A civil penalty of not more than \$11,803 may be imposed upon any person who makes, presents, or submits, or causes to be made, presented, or submitted, a written statement that:

* * * * *

PART 30—CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES: CERTAIN PROHIBITED CONDUCT

■ 3. The authority citation for part 30 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 1701q–1, 1703, 1723i, 1735f–14, and 1735f–15; 15 U.S.C. 1717a; 28 U.S.C. 1 note and 2461 note; 42 U.S.C. 1437z–1 and 3535(d).

■ 4. In § 30.20, revise paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 30.20 Ethical violations by HUD employees.

* * * * *

(b) Maximum penalty. The maximum penalty is \$20,731 for each violation.

■ 5. In § 30.25, revise paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 30.25 Violations by applicants for assistance.

* * * * *

(b) Maximum penalty. The maximum penalty is \$20,731 for each violation.

■ 6. In § 30.35, revise the first sentence in paragraph (c)(1) to read as follows:

§ 30.35 Mortgagees and lenders.

* * * * *

(c)(1) * * * The maximum penalty is \$10,366 for each violation, up to a limit of \$2,073,133 for all violations committed during any one-year period.

* * * * *

■ 7. In § 30.36, revise the first sentence in paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 30.36 Other participants in FHA programs.

* * * * *

(c) * * * The maximum penalty is \$10,366 for each violation, up to a limit of \$2,073,133 for all violations committed during any one-year period.

* * * * *

■ 8. In § 30.40, revise the first sentence in paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 30.40 Loan guarantees for Indian housing.

* * * * *

(c) * * * The maximum penalty is \$10,366 for each violation, up to a limit of \$2,073,133 for all violations committed during any one-year period.

* * * * *

■ 9. In § 30.45, revise paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 30.45 Multifamily and section 202 or 811 mortgages.

* * * * *

(g) *Maximum penalty.* The maximum penalty for each violation under paragraphs (c) and (f) of this section is \$51,827.

* * * * *

■ 10. In § 30.50, revise the first sentence in paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 30.50 GNMA issuers and custodians.

* * * * *

(c) * * * The maximum penalty is \$10,366 for each violation, up to a limit of \$2,073,133 during any one-year period.

■ 11. In § 30.60, revise paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 30.60 Dealers or sponsored third-party originators.

* * * * *

(c) *Amount of penalty.* The maximum penalty is \$10,366 for each violation, up to a limit for any particular person of \$2,073,133 during any one-year period.

■ 12. In § 30.65, revise paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 30.65 Failure to disclose lead-based paint hazards.

* * * * *

(b) *Amount of penalty.* The maximum penalty is \$18,364 for each violation.

■ 13. In § 30.68, revise paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 30.68 Section 8 owners.

* * * * *

(c) *Maximum penalty.* The maximum penalty for each violation under this section is \$40,282.

* * * * *

PART 87—NEW RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING

■ 14. The authority citation for part 87 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 1 note; 31 U.S.C. 1352; 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

■ 15. In § 87.400, revise paragraphs (a), (b), and (e) to read as follows:

§ 87.400 Penalties.

(a) Any person who makes an expenditure prohibited herein shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$20,731 and not more than \$207,314 for each such expenditure.

(b) Any person who fails to file or amend the disclosure form (see appendix B of this part) to be filed or amended if required herein, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$20,731 and not more than \$207,314 for each such failure.

* * * * *

(e) First offenders under paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$20,731, absent aggravating circumstances. Second and subsequent offenses by persons shall be subject to an appropriate civil penalty between \$20,731 and \$207,314 as

determined by the agency head or his or her designee.

* * * * *

PART 180—CONSOLIDATED HUD HEARING PROCEDURES FOR CIVIL RIGHTS MATTERS

■ 16. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 1 note; 29 U.S.C. 794; 42 U.S.C. 2000d–1, 3535(d), 3601–3619, 5301–5320, and 6103.

■ 17. In § 180.671, revise paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) to read as follows:

§ 180.671 Assessing civil penalties for Fair Housing Act cases.

(a) * * *

(1) \$21,663, if the respondent has not been adjudged in any administrative hearing or civil action permitted under the Fair Housing Act or any state or local fair housing law, or in any licensing or regulatory proceeding conducted by a federal, state, or local governmental agency, to have committed any prior discriminatory housing practice.

(2) \$54,157, if the respondent has been adjudged in any administrative hearing or civil action permitted under the Fair Housing Act, or under any state or local fair housing law, or in any licensing or regulatory proceeding conducted by a federal, state, or local government agency, to have committed one other discriminatory housing practice and the adjudication was made during the 5-year period preceding the date of filing of the charge.

(3) \$108,315, if the respondent has been adjudged in any administrative hearings or civil actions permitted under the Fair Housing Act, or under any state or local fair housing law, or in any licensing or regulatory proceeding conducted by a federal, state, or local government agency, to have committed two or more discriminatory housing practices and the adjudications were made during the 7-year period preceding the date of filing of the charge.

* * * * *

PART 3282—MANUFACTURED HOME PROCEDURAL AND ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS

■ 18. The authority citation for part 3282 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2967; 42 U.S.C. 3535(d), 5403, and 5424.

■ 19. Revise § 3282.10 to read as follows:

§ 3282.10 Civil and criminal penalties.

Failure to comply with these regulations may subject the party in question to the civil and criminal penalties provided for in section 611 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 5410. The maximum amount of penalties imposed under section 611 of the Act shall be \$3,011 for each violation, up to a maximum of \$3,763,392 for any related series of violations occurring within one year from the date of the first violation.

Damon Smith,

Principal Deputy General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2021-04817 Filed 3-15-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**34 CFR Chapter III**

[Docket ID ED-2020-OSERS-0063]

**Final Priority and Definitions—
American Indian Vocational
Rehabilitation Training and Technical
Assistance Center**

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Department of Education.

ACTION: Final priority and definitions.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) announces a priority and definitions to fund an American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center (AIVRTTAC), Assistance Listing Number 84.250Z. The Department may use the priority and definitions for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2021 and later years. We take this action to improve employment outcomes and raise expectations for American Indians with disabilities and to fund training and technical assistance (TA) activities to support the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) projects. We intend the AIVRTTAC to provide training and TA to the AIVRS project personnel, especially vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors, to improve their capacity to implement innovative and effective VR services and employment strategies and practices to increase the number and quality of employment outcomes for American Indians with disabilities served through the AIVRS program.

Awards will be made to State, local, or Tribal governments, non-profit organizations, or institutions of higher education that have experience in the operation of AIVRS programs.

DATES: This priority and definitions are effective April 15, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Elliott, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5097, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. Telephone: (202) 245-7335. Email: jerry.elliott@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the AIVRTTAC program is to provide training and TA to governing bodies of Indian Tribes, or consortia of those governing bodies, that have received an AIVRS grant under section 121(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Under section 121(c)(2) of the Act, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) makes grants to, or enters into contracts or other cooperative agreements with, entities that have experience in the operation of AIVRS projects to provide such training and TA on developing, conducting, administering, and evaluating these projects.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 741(c).

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 371.

We published a notice of proposed priorities and definitions (NPP) for this program in the **Federal Register** on September 10, 2020 (85 FR 55802). That notice contained background information and our reasons for proposing the particular priorities and definitions.

Except for minor editorial and technical revisions for grammar and clarity, and one substantive change explained in the discussion of the comments that follow, there are no differences between Proposed Priority 1 and the proposed definitions and the final priority and final definitions. We have not included Proposed Priority 2 in the final priorities.

Public Comment: In response to our invitation in the NPP, five parties submitted comments on the proposed priorities and definitions.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes, or suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make. In addition, we do not address general comments that raise concerns not directly related to the proposed priorities or definitions.

Analysis of Comments and Changes: An analysis of the comments and of any changes in the priorities and definitions since publication of the NPP follows.

Comment: Two commenters noted that American Indians, just like other groups, deserve rehabilitation and

disability assistance services. The commenters believe that the AIVRS program is a great way to help this group. The commenters believe that Proposed Priority 1 would help.

Discussion: The Department agrees with the commenters that Proposed Priority 1 is important in helping the AIVRS projects to deliver AIVRS services to American Indians with disabilities served by the AIVRS projects.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter discussed the need to build internal capacity within AIVRS projects to deliver benefits counseling to AIVRS project participants. The commenter noted that benefits counseling is a proven approach that not only helps individuals understand the benefits of work but also leads to more employment outcomes. The commenter stated that benefits counseling provided within Tribal programs will be more welcome and better accepted than benefits counseling provided by “outsiders” who provide counseling and then leave. Specifically, the commenter recommended that the AIVRTTAC institute a plan to provide AIVRS consumers with benefits planning services by training Tribal members to provide these services and build expert capacity within the Tribal nations so that consumers can learn and understand the process and complex rules of government programs.

Discussion: The Department agrees with the commenter that benefits counseling services are important services to provide to AIVRS consumers as they work to develop their career goals and their individualized plan for employment (IPE). Benefits counseling is a commonly provided VR service. The Department agrees that the AIVRTTAC should be able to provide TA to Tribes seeking to build resources to provide these services and will address it in the cooperative agreement once the applicant is selected, but the priority addresses broader requirements for training such as development of the IPE, which looks at all VR services, of which benefits counseling is one. The Department does not believe that the one-size-fits-all approach suggested by the commenter—to require the AIVRTTAC to train all AIVRS grantees on benefits counseling—is the best approach given the diversity of the AIVRS grantees. Many small AIVRS projects may not have the capacity to devote staff time to this complicated issue and would need TA to establish relationships with other sources to address this need. Also, there may be local services available that have proven