

or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. If you believe this rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above.

#### E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

#### F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023–01 and Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves a safety zone lasting approximately 30 days that will prohibit entry within 500 yards of the vessels being used for sub-surface containment installation. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L(60)a of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 01. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination will be made available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

#### G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

#### List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

### PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 46 U.S.C. 70034; 46 U.S.C. 70051; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

■ 2. Add § 165.T08–0030 to read as follows:

#### § 165.T08–0030 Safety Zone; Mississippi Canyon Block 20, South of New Orleans, LA, Gulf of Mexico.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All navigable waters within a 500-yard radius around the vessels, OCEAN PATRIOT and ROSS CANDIES, in Mississippi Canyon Block 20, South of New Orleans, LA, in the Gulf of Mexico.

(b) *Effective period.* This section is effective from 6 a.m. on February 14, 2019, through 8 p.m. on March 14, 2019.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23, entry into or remaining within this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector New Orleans (COTP) or designated representative. A designated representative is a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard assigned to units under the operational control of USCG Sector New Orleans.

(2) Vessels requiring entry into this safety zone must request permission from the COTP or a designated representative. They may be contacted on VHF–FM Channel 16 or 67 or by telephone at (504) 365–2200.

(3) Persons and vessels permitted to enter this safety zone must transit at their slowest safe speed and comply with all lawful directions issued by the COTP or the designated representative.

(d) *Information broadcasts.* The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the enforcement times and date for this safety zone through Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs), Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) as appropriate.

Dated: January 28, 2019.

**K.M. Luttrell,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector New Orleans.*

[FR Doc. 2019–00511 Filed 1–31–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9110–04–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

#### 34 CFR Parts 36 and 668

[Docket ID ED–2019–OGC–0004]

RIN 1801–AA18

#### Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Final regulations.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Education (Department) issues these final regulations to adjust the Department's civil monetary penalties (CMPs) for inflation. This adjustment is required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (2015 Act), which amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Inflation Adjustment Act). These final regulations provide the 2019 annual inflation adjustments being made to the penalty amounts in the Department's final regulations published in the **Federal Register** on January 16, 2018 (2018 final rule).

**DATES:** These regulations are effective February 1, 2019. The adjusted CMPs established by these regulations are applicable only to civil penalties assessed after February 1, 2019 whose associated violations occurred after November 2, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Levon Schlichter, U.S. Department of Education, Office of the General Counsel, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 6E235, Washington, DC 20202–2241. Telephone: (202) 453–6387. Email: [levon.schlichter@ed.gov](mailto:levon.schlichter@ed.gov).

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

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (*e.g.*, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the contact person listed in this section.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Background.* A CMP is defined in the Inflation Adjustment Act (28 U.S.C. 2461 note) as any penalty, fine, or other sanction that is (1) for a specific monetary amount as provided by Federal law, or has a maximum amount provided for by Federal law; (2) assessed or enforced by an agency pursuant to Federal law; and (3) assessed or enforced pursuant to an administrative proceeding or a civil action in the Federal courts.

The Inflation Adjustment Act provides for the regular evaluation of

CMPs to ensure that they continue to maintain their deterrent value. The Inflation Adjustment Act required that each agency issue regulations to adjust its CMPs beginning in 1996 and at least every four years thereafter. The Department published its most recent cost adjustment to its CMPs in the **Federal Register** on January 16, 2018 (83 FR 2062), and those adjustments became effective on the date of publication.

The 2015 Act (section 701 of Pub. L. 114–74) amended the Inflation Adjustment Act to improve the effectiveness of CMPs and to maintain their deterrent effect.

The 2015 Act requires agencies to: (1) Adjust the level of CMPs with an initial “catch-up” adjustment through an interim final rule (IFR); and (2) make subsequent annual adjustments for inflation. Catch-up adjustments are based on the percentage change between the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the month of October in the year the penalty was last adjusted by a statute other than the Inflation Adjustment Act, and the October 2015 CPI-U. Annual inflation adjustments are based on the percentage change between the October CPI-U preceding the date of each statutory adjustment, and the prior year’s October CPI-U.<sup>1</sup> The Department published an IFR with the initial “catch-up” penalty adjustment amounts on August 1, 2016 (81 FR 50321).

In these final regulations, based on the CPI-U for the month of October 2018, not seasonally adjusted, we are annually adjusting each CMP amount by a multiplier for 2019 of 1.02522, as directed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum No. M–19–04 issued on December 14, 2018.

#### The Department’s Civil Monetary Penalties

The following analysis calculates new CMPs for penalty statutes in the order in which they appear in 34 CFR 36.2. The penalty amounts are being adjusted up based on the multiplier of 1.02522 provided in OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04.

*Statute:* 20 U.S.C. 1015(c)(5).

*Current Regulations:* The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1015(c)(5) (Section 131(c)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)), as last set out in statute in 1998 (Pub. Law 105–244, title I, section 101(a), October 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1602), is a fine of up to \$25,000 for

failure by an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide information on the cost of higher education to the Commissioner of Education Statistics. In the 2018 final rule, we increased this amount to \$37,601.

*New Regulations:* The new penalty for this section is \$38,549.

*Reason:* Using the multiplier of 1.02522 from OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, the new penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$37,601 \times 1.02522 = \$38,549.30$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$38,549, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Statute:* 20 U.S.C. 1022d(a)(3).

*Current Regulations:* The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1022d(a)(3) (Section 205(a)(3) of the HEA), as last set out in statute in 2008 (Pub. L. 110–315, title II, section 201(2), August 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 3147), is a fine of up to \$27,500 for failure by an IHE to provide information to the State and the public regarding its teacher-preparation programs. In the 2018 final rule, we increased this amount to \$31,320.

*New Regulations:* The new penalty for this section is \$32,110.

*Reason:* Using the multiplier of 1.02522 from OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, the new penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$31,320 \times 1.02522 = \$32,109.89$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$32,110, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Statute:* 20 U.S.C. 1082(g).

*Current Regulations:* The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1082(g) (Section 432(g) of the HEA), as last set out in statute in 1986 (Pub. L. 99–498, title IV, section 402(a), October 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 1401), is a fine of up to \$25,000 for violations by lenders and guaranty agencies of Title IV of the HEA, which authorizes the Federal Family Education Loan Program. In the 2018 final rule, we increased this amount to \$55,907.

*New Regulations:* The new penalty for this section is \$57,317.

*Reason:* Using the multiplier of 1.02522 from OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, the new penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$55,907 \times 1.02522 = \$57,316.97$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$57,317, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Statute:* 20 U.S.C. 1094(c)(3)(B).

*Current Regulations:* The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1094(c)(3)(B) (Section 487(c)(3)(B) of the HEA), as set out in statute in 1986 (Pub. L. 99–498, title IV, section 407(a), October 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 1488), is a fine of up to \$25,000 for an IHE’s violation of Title IV of the HEA or its implementing regulations. Title IV authorizes various programs of student financial assistance. In the 2018 final

rule, we increased this amount to \$55,907.

*New Regulations:* The new penalty for this section is \$57,317.

*Reason:* Using the multiplier of 1.02522 from OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, the new penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$55,907 \times 1.02522 = \$57,316.97$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$57,317, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Statute:* 20 U.S.C. 1228c(c)(2)(E).

*Current Regulations:* The CMP for 20 U.S.C. 1228c(c)(2)(E) (Section 429 of the General Education Provisions Act), as set out in statute in 1994 (Pub. L. 103–382, title II, section 238, October 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 3918), is a fine of up to \$1,000 for an educational organization’s failure to disclose certain information to minor students and their parents. In the 2018 final rule, we increased this amount to \$1,650.

*New Regulations:* The new penalty for this section is \$1,692.

*Reason:* Using the multiplier of 1.02522 from OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, the new penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$1,650 \times 1.02522 = \$1,691.61$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$1,692, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Statute:* 31 U.S.C. 1352(c)(1) and (c)(2)(A).

*Current Regulations:* The CMPs for 31 U.S.C. 1352(c)(1) and (c)(2)(A), as set out in statute in 1989 (Pub. L. 101–121, title III, section 319(a)(1), October 23, 1989, 103 Stat. 750), are a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for recipients of Government grants, contracts, etc. that improperly lobby Congress or the Executive Branch with respect to the award of Government grants and contracts. In the 2018 final rule, we increased these amounts to \$19,639 to \$196,387.

*New Regulations:* The new penalties for these sections are \$20,134 to \$201,340.

*Reason:* Using the multiplier of 1.02522 from OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, the new minimum penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$19,639 \times 1.02522 = \$20,134.30$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$20,134, when rounded to the nearest dollar. The new maximum penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$196,387 \times 1.02522 = \$201,339.88$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$201,340, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Statute:* 31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1) and (a)(2).

*Current Regulations:* The CMPs for 31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1) and (a)(2), as set out in statute in 1986 (Pub. L. 99–509, title VI, section 6103(a), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1937), are a fine of up to \$5,000 for false

<sup>1</sup> If a statute that created a penalty is amended to change the penalty amount, the Department does not adjust the penalty in the year following the adjustment.

claims and statements made to the Government. In the 2018 final rule, we increased this amount to \$11,181.

*New Regulations:* The new penalty for this section is \$11,463.

*Reason:* Using the multiplier of 1.02522 from OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, the new penalty is calculated as follows:  $\$11,181 \times 1.02522 = \$11,462.98$ , which makes the adjusted penalty \$11,463, when rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### **Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 13771**

##### *Regulatory Impact Analysis*

Under Executive Order 12866, it must be determined whether this regulatory action is “significant” and, therefore, subject to the requirements of the Executive order and subject to review by OMB. Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 defines a significant regulatory action as an action likely to result in a rule that may—

(1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely affect a sector of the economy; productivity; competition; jobs; the environment; public health or safety; or State, local, or Tribal governments or communities in a material way (also referred to as “economically significant” regulations);

(2) Create serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;

(3) Materially alter the budgetary impacts of entitlement grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President’s priorities, or the principles stated in the Executive order.

We have determined that these final regulations: (1) Exclusively implement the annual adjustment; (2) are consistent with OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04; and (3) have an annual impact of less than \$100 million. Therefore, based on OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04, this is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by OMB under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866.

We have also reviewed these regulations under Executive Order 13563, which supplements and explicitly reaffirms the principles, structures, and definitions governing regulatory review established in Executive Order 12866. To the extent permitted by law, Executive Order 13563 requires that an agency—

(1) Propose or adopt regulations only upon a reasoned determination that their benefits justify their costs (recognizing that some benefits and costs are difficult to quantify);

(2) Tailor its regulations to impose the least burden on society, consistent with obtaining regulatory objectives and taking into account, among other things, and to the extent practicable, the costs of cumulative regulations;

(3) In choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, select those approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity);

(4) To the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than the behavior or manner of compliance a regulated entity must adopt; and

(5) Identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including economic incentives—such as user fees or marketable permits—to encourage the desired behavior, or providing information that enables the public to make choices.

Executive Order 13563 also requires an agency “to use the best available techniques to quantify anticipated present and future benefits and costs as accurately as possible.” The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB has emphasized that these techniques may include “identifying changing future compliance costs that might result from technological innovation or anticipated behavioral changes.”

We are issuing these final regulations as required by statute and in accordance with OMB Memorandum No. M–19–04. The Secretary has no discretion to consider alternative approaches as delineated in the Executive order. Based on this analysis and the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department believes that these final regulations are consistent with the principles in Executive Order 13563.

Under Executive Order 13771, for each new regulation that the Department proposes for notice and comment or otherwise promulgates that is a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866 and that imposes total costs greater than zero, it must identify two deregulatory actions. For fiscal year 2019, any new incremental costs associated with a new regulation must be fully offset by the elimination of existing costs through deregulatory actions. These final regulations are not a significant regulatory action. Therefore, the requirements of Executive Order 13771 do not apply.

#### **Waiver of Rulemaking and Delayed Effective Date**

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department generally offers interested

parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, section 4(b)(2) of the 2015 Act (28 U.S.C. 2461 note) provides that the Secretary can adjust these 2019 penalty amounts notwithstanding the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553. Therefore, the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553 for notice and comment and delaying the effective date of a final rule do not apply here.

#### **Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification**

The Secretary certifies that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The formula for the amount of the inflation adjustments is prescribed by statute and is not subject to the Secretary’s discretion. These CMPs are infrequently imposed by the Secretary, and the regulations do not involve any special considerations that might affect the imposition of CMPs on small entities.

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995**

These regulations do not contain any information collection requirements.

#### **Intergovernmental Review**

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

#### **Assessment of Educational Impact**

Based on our own review, we have determined that these regulations do not require transmission of information that any other agency or authority of the United States gathers or makes available.

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#### **List of Subjects**

34 CFR Part 36

Claims, Fraud, Penalties.

34 CFR Part 668

Administrative practice and procedure, Colleges and universities, Consumer protection, Grant programs—education, Loan programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Selective Service System, Student aid, Vocational education.

Dated: January 29, 2019.

**Betsy DeVos**,  
*Secretary of Education.*

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Secretary amends parts 36 and 668 of title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

**PART 36—ADJUSTMENT OF CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR INFLATION**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 36 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1221e–3 and 3474; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note, as amended by section 701 of Pub. Law 114–74, unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. Section 36.2 is amended by revising Table I to read as follows:

**§ 36.2 Penalty adjustment.**

\* \* \* \* \*

TABLE I—SECTION 36.2.—CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS

Statute	Description	New maximum (and minimum, if applicable) penalty amount
20 U.S.C. 1015(c)(5) (Section 131(c)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA)).	Provides for a fine, as set by Congress in 1998, of up to \$25,000 for failure by an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide information on the cost of higher education to the Commissioner of Education Statistics.	\$38,549.
20 U.S.C. 1022d(a)(3) (Section 205(a)(3) of the HEA).	Provides for a fine, as set by Congress in 2008, of up to \$27,500 for failure by an IHE to provide information to the State and the public regarding its teacher-preparation programs.	\$32,110.
20 U.S.C. 1082(g) (Section 432(g) of the HEA).	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1986, of up to \$25,000 for violations by lenders and guaranty agencies of Title IV of the HEA, which authorizes the Federal Family Education Loan Program.	\$57,317.
20 U.S.C. 1094(c)(3)(B) (Section 487(c)(3)(B) of the HEA).	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1986, of up to \$25,000 for an IHE's violation of Title IV of the HEA, which authorizes various programs of student financial assistance.	\$57,317.
20 U.S.C. 1228c(c)(2)(E) (Section 429 of the General Education Provisions Act).	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1994, of up to \$1,000 for an educational organization's failure to disclose certain information to minor students and their parents.	\$1,692.
31 U.S.C. 1352(c)(1) and (c)(2)(A) .....	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1989, of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for recipients of Government grants, contracts, etc. that improperly lobby Congress or the Executive Branch with respect to the award of Government grants and contracts.	\$20,134 to \$201,340.
31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1) and (a)(2) .....	Provides for a civil penalty, as set by Congress in 1986, of up to \$5,000 for false claims and statements made to the Government.	\$11,463.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PART 668—STUDENT ASSISTANCE GENERAL PROVISIONS**

■ 3. The authority citation for part 668 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1001–1003, 1070a, 1070g, 1085, 1087b, 1087d, 1087e, 1088, 1091, 1092, 1094, 1099c, 1099c–1, 1221e–3, and 3474; Pub. L. 111–256, 124 Stat. 2643; unless otherwise noted.

**§ 668.84 [Amended]**

■ 4. Section 668.84 is amended in paragraph (a) by removing the number “\$55,907” and adding in its place the number “\$57,317”.

[FR Doc. 2019–00670 Filed 1–31–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**39 CFR Part 3035**

[Docket No. RM2018–12; Order No. 4973]

**Amendments to Market Test Rules**

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is adopting final rules amending the Commission's regulations governing market tests of experimental products. The final rules revise the method for calculating applicable market test revenue limitations and clarify the process for filing a request to add a non-experimental product or price category based on an experimental product to the market dominant or competitive product list. For additional information, Order No. 4973 can be accessed electronically through the Commission's website at <https://www.prc.gov>.

**DATES:** *Effective:* March 4, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Table of Contents**

- I. Relevant Statutory Requirements
- II. Basis and Purpose of Rule Change
- III. Final Rule

**I. Relevant Statutory Requirements**

Section 3641 of title 39 of the United States Code authorizes the Postal Service to conduct market tests of experimental products. 39 U.S.C. 3641. Generally, each product offered by the Postal Service must comply with section 3622 (governing market dominant products) or section 3633 (governing competitive products), as well as section 3642 (governing changes to the lists of market dominant and competitive products) and applicable regulations. Experimental products, however, are not subject to these requirements. 39 U.S.C. 3641(a)(2).