

therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement will not be required. After the comment period, an environmental assessment will be prepared and it may be reviewed at the District office listed at the end of the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above.

d. *Unfunded Mandates Act*. The proposed rule does not impose an enforceable duty among the private sector and, therefore, is not a Federal private sector mandate and is not subject to the requirements of Section 202 or 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (Pub. L. 104-4, 109 Stat. 48, 2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*). We have also found under Section 203 of the Act, that small governments will not be significantly or uniquely affected by this proposed rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 334

Danger zones, Navigation (water), Restricted areas, Waterways.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Corps proposes to amend 33 CFR part 334 as follows:

PART 334—DANGER ZONE AND RESTRICTED AREA REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for 33 CFR part 334 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 Stat. 266 (33 U.S.C. 1) and 40 Stat. 892 (33 U.S.C. 3).

2. In § 334.420 add paragraphs (b)(1)(v) and (b)(2)(iii) to read as follows:

§ 334.420 Pamlico Sound and adjacent waters, N.C.; danger zones for Marine Corps operations.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) * * *

(v) The waters within a circular band with an inner radius of 1.8 statute miles and an outer radius of 2.5 statute miles having its center at latitude 35°02'12", longitude 76°28'00".

(2) * * *

(iii) The areas described in paragraph (b)(1)(v) of this section shall be used as a strafing area. Practice and dummy ammunition will be used. Operations will be conducted on five consecutive days (Monday through Friday) per month during the months of February through November between the hours of 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. The block training dates will be scheduled two weeks in advance of the actual training start date. Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point will have a call-in number for public use to provide information on the current use of the training area. The Notification to Mariners System will also be utilized to inform the public on the status of the training area. No vessel

or person shall enter the area during the scheduled block training session except for such vessels as may be directed by the enforcing agency to enter on assigned duties. The area will be patrolled and vessels "buzzed" by the patrol plane prior to the conduct of operations in the area. Vessels or personnel which have inadvertently entered the danger zone shall leave the area immediately upon being so warned.

* * * * *

Dated: October 8, 2010.

Michael G. Ensich,

Chief, Operations, Directorate of Civil Works.

[FR Doc. 2010-26442 Filed 10-21-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 4

RIN 2900-AN75

Schedule for Rating Disabilities; AL Amyloidosis (Primary Amyloidosis)

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities (rating schedule) by updating the schedule of ratings for the hemic and lymphatic systems to include AL amyloidosis. This regulatory action is necessary to add AL amyloidosis as one of the disease conditions and establish criteria for disability evaluation to fully implement the decision by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grant presumptive service connection based on herbicide exposure for this disease. The intended effects are to provide consistency in disability ratings and to ease tracking of AL amyloidosis for statistical analysis.

DATES: Comments must be received by VA on or before December 21, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through <http://www.Regulations.gov>; by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273-9026. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AN75—Schedule for Rating Disabilities; AL Amyloidosis (Primary Amyloidosis)." All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the

hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 for an appointment. (This is not a toll-free number.) In addition, during the comment period, comments are available online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas J. Kniffen, Chief, Regulations Staff (211D), Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9725. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A final rule was published in the **Federal Register** at 74 FR 21258 amending 38 CFR 3.309(e) by adding AL amyloidosis to the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents. Currently, the rating schedule does not have a diagnostic code for AL amyloidosis. As an unlisted condition, it is rated by analogy to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma using the "built-up" diagnostic code 7799-7715. However, AL amyloidosis is not part of the group of diseases under the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma classification, but a disorder of the bone marrow characterized by the accumulation and deposition of abnormal, insoluble proteins called light chain amyloid proteins in any organ of the body, interfering with the structure and function of the organ. Therefore, AL amyloidosis requires a set of evaluation criteria with a unique diagnostic code, which will serve as a basis for disability rating. VA proposes a regulation that would amend the rating schedule by adding rating guidance and a diagnostic code specifically for AL amyloidosis.

AL amyloidosis is a seriously disabling, progressive, and incurable condition. It is usually fatal within 1 to 2 years of diagnosis. Because of its rarity and rapid progression, AL amyloidosis may not be diagnosed until it has resulted in considerable multi-organ damage (to heart, kidney, liver, spleen, intestine, *etc.*). At the time of diagnosis, the most common findings are nephrotic syndrome with or without renal insufficiency, congestive cardiomyopathy, peripheral neuropathy, and hepatomegaly. The extent of the disease limits the specific types of treatments that can be used. Stem cell transplantation with high dose chemotherapy, an aggressive and risky treatment with serious side effects and a significant mortality rate, can be used in a limited number of patients who meet the criteria to undergo such severe treatment. This treatment has shown promise in prolonging life but does not

cure the disease. Accumulations of amyloid in a specific area of the body can sometimes be removed surgically. Organ transplants (for example, of a kidney or the heart) have extended the lives of a small number of people with organ failure due to amyloidosis but eventually the transplanted organ accumulates amyloid. In general, treatment can slow the course of the disease and help alleviate the symptoms of organ damage, but it is not curative.

AL amyloidosis is a disease most closely aligned with other diseases of the hemic and lymphatic systems. Therefore, VA proposes diagnostic code 7717 for AL amyloidosis because it is the first available diagnostic code in the Hemic and Lymphatic Systems listed in § 4.117.

VA proposes to assign a 100 percent rating because the disease is incurable and progressive, generally causing death in a few years. While AL amyloidosis may or may not be totally disabling at the time of diagnosis or time of claim for VA compensation, its clinical course is usually associated with rapid disease progression and involvement of multiple organ systems. The usual cause of death is cardiac, hepatic, or renal failure, or infection. The median survival rate for AL amyloidosis is 12–18 months in the United States. Providing a 100-percent evaluation in all cases would obviate the need to reassess and reevaluate veterans with AL amyloidosis repeatedly over a short period of time. Because of the poor prognosis, no follow-up examination will be required for re-evaluation of this disability rating.

We also propose to refer to AL amyloidosis as “primary amyloidosis”, which is another common name for the same disease. Although the disease may also be identified as “immunocyte-derived amyloidosis” and “light chain-related amyloidosis”, these terms for the disease are much less common. Therefore, we propose not to include them under diagnostic code 7717 because their inclusion would not be useful to the public or VA personnel.

Finally, we propose to amend 38 CFR Part 4, Appendices A, B, and C to reflect the proposed addition of diagnostic code 7717 for AL amyloidosis to the rating schedule.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* This proposed rule will not directly affect

small entities. Only VA beneficiaries will be directly affected. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this amendment is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

Executive Order 12866

Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). The Executive Order classifies a “significant regulatory action,” requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) unless OMB waives such review, as any regulatory action that is likely to result in a rule that may: (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or Tribal governments or communities; (2) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, 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 set forth in the Executive Order.

The economic, interagency, budgetary, legal, and policy implications of this proposed rule have been examined and it has been determined not to be a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule 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 (adjusted annually for inflation) in any 1 year. This proposed rule would have no such effect on State, local, and Tribal governments, or on the private sector.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers and Titles

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program numbers and titles for this proposal are 64.104, Pension for Non-Service-Connected Disability for

Veterans, and 64.109, Veterans Compensation for Service-Connected Disability.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This action contains no provisions constituting a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. John R. Gingrich, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on October 4, 2010, for publication.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 4

Disability benefits, Pensions, Veterans.

Dated: October 18, 2010.

Robert C. McFetridge,
Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to amend 38 CFR part 4 as set forth below:

PART 4—SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES

1. The authority citation for part 4 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1155, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart B—Disability Ratings

§ 4.117 [Amended]

2. In § 4.117, add diagnostic code 7717, immediately following the note at the end of diagnostic code 7716, to read as follows:

§ 4.117 Schedule of ratings—hemic and lymphatic systems.

					Rating
*	*	*	*	*	
7717	AL amyloidosis (primary amyloidosis)				100
*	*	*	*	*	

Appendix A to Part 4 [Amended]

3. In Appendix A to Part 4, under Sec. 4.117, add diagnostic code 7717 in numerical order (following diagnostic code number 7716) to the table to read as follows:

APPENDIX A TO PART 4—TABLE OF AMENDMENTS AND EFFECTIVE DATES SINCE 1946

Sec.	Diagnostic Code No.					
4.117	*	*	*	*	*	*
7717	*	*	*	*	*	*

Added [Date 30 days after date of publication of the final rule in the **Federal Register**].

Appendix B to Part 4 [Amended] (following the entry for diagnostic code number 7716) and its disability entry “AL amyloidosis (primary amyloidosis)” to read as follows:

4. In Appendix B to Part 4 add diagnostic code 7717 to the table in numerical order

APPENDIX B TO PART 4—NUMERICAL INDEX OF DISABILITIES

Diagnostic Code No.						
	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>THE HEMIC AND LYMPHATIC SYSTEMS</i>						
7717	AL amyloidosis (primary amyloidosis).				

Appendix C to Part 4 [Amended]

5. Appendix C to Part 4 is amended by adding in alphabetical order (following “Agranulocytosis”) a new entry “AL amyloidosis” and its diagnostic code number “7717” to read as follows:

APPENDIX C TO PART 4—ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF DISABILITIES

	Diagnostic Code No.
AL amyloidosis	7717

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

42 CFR Part 84

[Docket Numbers NIOSH-221, NIOSH-082A, NIOSH-147]

Public Meeting To Discuss NIOSH’s Respirator Standards Development Efforts

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL), will conduct a public meeting to discuss current respirator standards development projects, including the NIOSH Regulatory Agenda for updating 42 CFR part 84, CBRN Combination Unit Respirator Performance Requirements, and the NIOSH policy on SCBA “Buddy-Breathing”. There will be an opportunity for discussion following each topic’s presentations.

DATES: The public meeting will be held 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., December 9, 2010. On-site registration will be held beginning at 7:45 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport, 1111 Airport Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15231, telephone 800-233-1234.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Szalajda, NPPTL, Policy and Standards Development Branch Chief, P.O. Box 18070, 626 Cochran Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, telephone 412-386-5200, fax 412-386-4089, E-mail npptlevents@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Status: The meeting will be open to the public, limited only by the space

available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 125 people.

Instructions: Requests to make presentations at the public meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Officer, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, MS-C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226. Requests may also be submitted by telephone 513-533-8611, fax 513-533-8285, or e-mailed to niocindocket@cdc.gov. All requests to present should contain the name, address, and telephone number, relevant business affiliations of the presenter, topic of the presentation, and the approximate time requested for the presentation. Oral presentations should be limited to 15 minutes.

After reviewing the requests for presentations, NIOSH will notify the presenters that their presentations are scheduled. If a participant is not present when his/her presentation is scheduled to begin, the remaining participants will be heard in order. At the conclusion of the meeting, an attempt will be made to allow presentations by scheduled participants who missed their assigned times. Attendees who wish to speak but did not submit a request for the opportunity to make a presentation may be given this opportunity at the conclusion of the meeting, at the discretion of the presiding officer.

This meeting will also be using Audio/Live Meeting Conferencing,