

requirements subject to the PRA had been approved by the OMB under Control Number 0648–0318 (North Pacific Observer Program) and Control Number 0648–0330 (Alaska Region, Scale and Catch Weighing Requirements) at the time the final rule was published. The effective date for the final rule’s collection of information requirements is delayed. When OMB approval is received, NOAA will publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the effective date for these information collection requirements.

Although the proposed and final rule preambles explained that certain obsolete and unnecessary regulations would be removed, the final rule inadvertently omitted amendatory language to remove a now obsolete and unnecessary regulation. This rule corrects this error.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. With respect to the final rule’s inadvertent omission of amendatory text that would remove the obsolete and unnecessary regulation, the public was already provided with notice and opportunity to comment via electronic submission ([www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2018-0122](http://www.regulations.gov/)) and by mail during the proposed rule public comment period which began on April 16, 2019 and ended on May 16, 2019. Further delay would result in public confusion with respect to the effectiveness of the remaining regulations established by the final rule.

For the reasons above, the AA also finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date and make this rule effective immediately upon publication.

Correction to Final Rule

In final rule FR Doc. 2019–22198, published on October 15, 2019 (84 FR 55044), the following corrections are made:

1. On page 55044, in the second column, under “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration”, “15 CFR 902.1” is removed and “15 CFR part 902” added in its place.
2. On page 55050, second column, the heading “OMB Revisions to PRA References in 15 CFR 902.1(b)” and corresponding paragraph are removed.

3. On page 55051, first column, the first sentence of the last paragraph is corrected to read as follows:

This final rule contains collection-of-information requirements subject to review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). These requirements have been submitted to OMB for approval under Control Number 0648–0318 (North Pacific Observer Program) and Control Number 0648–0330 (Alaska Region, Scale and Catch Weighing Requirements). When approval is received, NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register** the effective date for these information collection requirements.

List of Subjects

15 CFR Part 902

Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

50 CFR Part 679

Alaska, Fisheries, Pacific halibut, Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Dated: December 3, 2019.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Accordingly, 15 CFR part 902 and 50 CFR part 679 are corrected by making the following correcting amendments:

Title 15—Commerce and Foreign Trade

PART 902—NOAA INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT: OMB CONTROL NUMBERS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 902 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

§ 902.1 [Amended]

■ 2. In § 902.1, in the table in paragraph (b), under the entry “50 CFR”, remove the entries for “679.28(l)”, “679.120(b)”, and “679.120(c), (d), and (e)”.

* * * * *

Title 50—Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 679—FISHERIES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF ALASKA

■ 3. The authority citation for 50 CFR part 679 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*; 1801 *et seq.*; 3631 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 108–447; Pub. L. 111–281.

§ 679.28 [Amended]

■ 4. Amend § 679.28 by removing paragraphs (i)(1)(iii) and (iv).

[FR Doc. 2019–26433 Filed 12–6–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22 CFR Part 51

[Public Notice: 10921]

RIN 1400–AE90

Passports; Clarification of Previous Rule Relating to Treatment of Serious Tax Debt

AGENCY: State Department.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule provides a clarification regarding situations in which a passport applicant is certified by the Secretary of the Treasury as having a seriously delinquent tax debt. In this rule, the Department clarifies that in such situations, the Department may issue a limited validity passport for direct return to the United States or when emergency circumstances or humanitarian reasons exist.

DATES: The effective date of this regulation is December 9, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Traub, Office of Legal Affairs, Passport Services, (202) 485–6500. Hearing- or speech-impaired persons may use the Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD) by contacting the Federal Information Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 2, 2016, the Department published a final rule that implemented the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), codified at 22 U.S.C. 2714a (the 2016 Final Rule). See 81 FR 60608.¹

The rulemaking incorporated statutory passport denial and revocation requirements for certain individuals who have been certified by the Secretary of the Treasury as having seriously delinquent tax debt or who submit passport applications without correct and valid Social Security numbers.

Why is this rule necessary?

The 2016 Final Rule, as codified at 22 CFR 51.60(a)(3), led to an unintended result. That rule provided that applicants for a passport who are certified by the Secretary of the Treasury as having a seriously

¹ See also a correction rule published on September 27, 2016, at 81 FR 66184.

delinquent tax debt as described in 26 U.S.C. 7345 may not be issued a passport, except a passport for direct return to the United States. This is a too-narrow implementation of the law, since 22 U.S.C. 2714a(e)(1)(B) provides that not only may the Department issue a certified individual a passport valid for direct return to the United States, but the Department also has the discretion to issue passports without geographical limitation to such applicants if the Department finds that emergency circumstances or humanitarian reasons exist.

With respect to the current text of § 51.60, the modification in the rulemaking will remove the text of paragraph (a)(3) of § 51.60, and add it to a new paragraph (h)(2) of § 51.60, since paragraph (h) applies to situations where the Department must generally deny passport applications except for passports valid for direct return to the United States, but can exercise discretion to issue passports where it determines that emergency circumstances or humanitarian reasons exist. Paragraph (a)(3) is reserved. The chapeau of § 51.60(h), regarding notification by the Attorney General of violations of 18 U.S.C. 2423, is moved to a new paragraph (h)(1).

Regulatory Findings

Administrative Procedure Act

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) provides that an agency is not required to conduct notice and comment rulemaking when the agency, for good cause, finds that the requirement is impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). There is good cause here because this amendment simply aligns 22 CFR 51.60 with current law. It does not establish any substantive policy. Since this change is implementing current law, public comment on this change is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. The APA also generally requires that regulations be published at least 30 days before their effective date, unless the agency has good cause to implement its regulations sooner (5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3)). Again, because this final rule aligns the Department's rules with federal law, there is good cause to make it effective on the day it is published.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of State, in accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), has reviewed this regulation and, by approving it, certifies that this rule will

not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Unfunded Mandates Act of 1995

This rule will not 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 year and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions were deemed necessary under the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996

This rule is not a major rule as defined by section 804 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Act of 1996. This rule will not result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; a major increase in costs or prices; or significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of U.S.-based companies to compete with foreign based companies in domestic and import markets.

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

The Department of State does not consider this rule to be an economically significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review. The Department has nevertheless reviewed the regulation to ensure its consistency with the regulatory philosophy and principles set forth in both Executive Order 12866 and Executive Order 13563, and certifies that the benefits of this regulation outweigh any cost to the public, which the Department assesses to be *de minimis*.

Executive Order 13132

This regulation will not 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. Therefore, in accordance with section 6 of Executive Order 13132, it is determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to require consultations or warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement.

Executive Order 13175

The Department has determined that this rulemaking will not have tribal implications, will not impose substantial direct compliance costs on tribal governments, and will not

preempt tribal law. Accordingly, the requirements of Executive Order 13175 do not apply to this rulemaking.

Executive Order 13771

This rule is not an E.O. 13771 regulatory action because this rule is not significant under E.O. 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not impose any new reporting or record keeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 51

Passports.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Department amends 22 CFR part 51 as follows:

PART 51—PASSPORTS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 51 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 8 U.S.C. 1504; 18 U.S.C. 1621; 22 U.S.C. 211a, 212, 212b, 213, 213n (Pub. L. 106–113 Div. B, Sec. 1000(a)(7) [Div. A, Title II, Sec. 236], 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A–430); 214, 214a, 217a, 218, 2651a, 2671(d)(3), 2705, 2714, 2714a, 2721, & 3926; 26 U.S.C. 6039E; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 42 U.S.C. 652(k) [Div. B, Title V of Pub. L. 103–317, 108 Stat. 1760]; E.O. 11295, Aug. 6, 1966, FR 10603, 3 CFR, 1966–1970 Comp., p. 570; Pub. L. 114–119, 130 Stat. 15; Sec. 1 of Pub. L. 109–210, 120 Stat. 319; Sec. 2 of Pub. L. 109–167, 119 Stat. 3578; Sec. 5 of Pub. L. 109–472, 120 Stat. 3554; Pub. L. 108–447, Div. B, Title IV, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2809; Pub. L. 108–458, 118 Stat. 3638, 3823 (Dec. 17, 2004).

■ 2. Amend § 51.60 by removing and reserving paragraph (a)(3) and revising paragraph (h).

The revision reads as follows:

§ 51.60 Denial and restriction of passports.

* * * * *

(h) The Department may not issue a passport, except a limited validity passport for direct return to the United States or in instances where the Department finds that emergency circumstances or humanitarian reasons exist, in any case in which:

(1) The Department is notified by the Attorney General that, during the covered period as defined by 22 U.S.C. 212a:

(i) The applicant was convicted of a violation of 18 U.S.C. 2423, and

(ii) The individual used a passport or passport card or otherwise crossed an international border in committing the underlying offense.

(2) The applicant is certified by the Secretary of the Treasury as having a

seriously delinquent tax debt as described in 26 U.S.C. 7345.

* * * * *

Carl C. Risch,

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2019-26393 Filed 12-6-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-13-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

29 CFR Part 4044

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans by substituting a new table for determining expected retirement ages for participants in pension plans undergoing distress or involuntary termination with valuation dates falling in 2020. This table is needed to compute the value of early retirement benefits and, thus, the total value of benefits under a plan.

DATES: This rule is effective January 1, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gregory Katz (*katz.gregory@pbgc.gov*), Attorney, Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4400, ext. 3829. (TTY users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4400, ext. 3829.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) administers the pension plan termination insurance program under title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044) sets forth (in subpart B) the methods for valuing plan benefits of terminating single-employer plans covered under title IV. Guaranteed

benefits and benefit liabilities under a plan that is undergoing a distress termination must be valued in accordance with subpart B of part 4044. In addition, when PBGC terminates an underfunded plan involuntarily pursuant to ERISA section 4042(a), it uses the subpart B valuation rules to determine the amount of the plan's underfunding.

Under § 4044.51(b) of the asset allocation regulation, early retirement benefits are valued based on the annuity starting date, if a retirement date has been selected, or the expected retirement age, if the annuity starting date is not known on the valuation date. Sections 4044.55 through 4044.57 set forth rules for determining the expected retirement ages for plan participants entitled to early retirement benefits. Appendix D of part 4044 contains tables to be used in determining the expected early retirement ages.

Table I in appendix D (Selection of Retirement Rate Category) is used to determine whether a participant has a low, medium, or high probability of retiring early. The determination is based on the year a participant would reach "unreduced retirement age" (*i.e.*, the earlier of the normal retirement age or the age at which an unreduced benefit is first payable) and the participant's monthly benefit at unreduced retirement age. The table applies only to plans with valuation dates in the current year and is updated annually by PBGC to reflect changes in the cost of living, etc.

Tables II-A, II-B, and II-C (Expected Retirement Ages for Individuals in the Low, Medium, and High Categories respectively) are used to determine the expected retirement age after the probability of early retirement has been determined using Table I. These tables establish, by probability category, the expected retirement age based on both the earliest age a participant could retire under the plan and the unreduced retirement age. This expected retirement age is used to compute the value of the early retirement benefit and, thus, the total value of benefits under the plan.

This document amends appendix D to replace Table I-19 with Table I-20 to provide an updated correlation, appropriate for calendar year 2020, between the amount of a participant's

benefit and the probability that the participant will elect early retirement. Table I-20 will be used to value benefits in plans with valuation dates during calendar year 2020.

PBGC has determined that notice of, and public comment on, this rule are impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Plan administrators need to be able to estimate accurately the value of plan benefits as early as possible before initiating the termination process. For that purpose, if a plan has a valuation date in 2020, the plan administrator needs the updated table being promulgated in this rule. Accordingly, PBGC finds that the public interest is best served by issuing this table expeditiously, without an opportunity for notice and comment, and that good cause exists for making the table set forth in this amendment effective less than 30 days after publication to allow as much time as possible to estimate the value of plan benefits with the proper table for plans with valuation dates in early 2020.

PBGC has determined that this action is not a "significant regulatory action" under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866 and Executive Order 13771.

Because no general notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this regulation, the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 does not apply (5 U.S.C. 601(2)).

List of Subjects in 29 CFR Part 4044

Employee benefit plans, Pension insurance.

In consideration of the foregoing, 29 CFR part 4044 is amended as follows:

PART 4044—ALLOCATION OF ASSETS IN SINGLE-EMPLOYER PLANS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 4044 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 1301(a), 1302(b)(3), 1341, 1344, 1362.

■ 2. Appendix D to part 4044 is amended by removing Table I-19 and adding in its place Table I-20 to read as follows:

Appendix D to Part 4044—Tables Used To Determine Expected Retirement Age