

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

19 CFR Chapter I

Notification of Temporary Travel Restrictions Applicable to Land Ports of Entry and Ferries Service Between the United States and Canada

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notification of continuation of temporary travel restrictions.

SUMMARY: This document announces the decision of the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) to continue to temporarily limit the travel of individuals from Canada into the United States at land ports of entry along the United States-Canada border. Such travel will be limited to “essential travel,” as further defined in this document.

DATES: These restrictions go into effect at 12 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on July 22, 2021 and will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. EDT on August 21, 2021, unless amended or rescinded prior to that time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Watson, Office of Field Operations Coronavirus Coordination Cell, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at 202–325–0840.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 24, 2020, DHS published notice of its decision to temporarily limit the travel of individuals from Canada into the United States at land ports of entry along the United States-Canada border to “essential travel,” as further defined in that document.¹ The document described the developing circumstances regarding the COVID–19 pandemic and stated that, given the outbreak and continued transmission and spread of the virus associated with COVID–19 within the United States and globally, DHS had determined that the risk of continued transmission and spread of the virus associated with COVID–19 between the United States and Canada posed a “specific threat to human life or national interests.” DHS

¹ 85 FR 16548 (Mar. 24, 2020). That same day, DHS also published notice of its decision to temporarily limit the travel of individuals from Mexico into the United States at land ports of entry along the United States-Mexico border to “essential travel,” as further defined in that document. 85 FR 16547 (Mar. 24, 2020).

later published a series of notifications continuing such limitations on travel until 11:59 p.m. EDT on July 21, 2021.²

DHS continues to monitor and respond to the COVID–19 pandemic. As of the week of July 12, 2021, there have been over 186 million confirmed cases globally, with over 4 million confirmed deaths.³ There have been over 33.7 million confirmed and probable cases within the United States,⁴ over 1.4 million confirmed cases in Canada,⁵ and over 2.6 million confirmed cases in Mexico.⁶

DHS also notes positive developments in recent weeks. CDC reports that, as of July 15, over 336 million vaccine doses have been administered in the United States and over 59% of adults in the United States are fully vaccinated.⁷ On June 7, 2021, CDC moved Canada and Mexico from COVID–19 Level 4 (Very High) to Level 3 (High) in recognition of conditions that, while still requiring significant safeguards, are improving.⁸

² See 86 FR 32764 (June 23, 2021); 86 FR 27802 (May 24, 2021); 86 FR 21188 (Apr. 22, 2021); 86 FR 14812 (Mar. 19, 2021); 86 FR 10815 (Feb. 23, 2021); 86 FR 4969 (Jan. 19, 2021); 85 FR 83432 (Dec. 22, 2020); 85 FR 74603 (Nov. 23, 2020); 85 FR 67276 (Oct. 22, 2020); 85 FR 59670 (Sept. 23, 2020); 85 FR 51634 (Aug. 21, 2020); 85 FR 44185 (July 22, 2020); 85 FR 37744 (June 24, 2020); 85 FR 31050 (May 22, 2020); 85 FR 22352 (Apr. 22, 2020). DHS also published parallel notifications of its decisions to continue temporarily limiting the travel of individuals from Mexico into the United States at land ports of entry along the United States-Mexico border to “essential travel.” See 86 FR 32766 (June 23, 2021); 86 FR 27800 (May 24, 2021); 86 FR 21188 (Apr. 22, 2021); 86 FR 14813 (Mar. 19, 2021); 86 FR 10816 (Feb. 23, 2021); 86 FR 4969 (Jan. 19, 2021); 85 FR 83433 (Dec. 22, 2020); 85 FR 74604 (Nov. 23, 2020); 85 FR 67275 (Oct. 22, 2020); 85 FR 59669 (Sept. 23, 2020); 85 FR 51633 (Aug. 21, 2020); 85 FR 44183 (July 22, 2020); 85 FR 37745 (June 24, 2020); 85 FR 31057 (May 22, 2020); 85 FR 22353 (Apr. 22, 2020).

³ WHO, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) Weekly Epidemiological Update (June 8, 2021), available at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports> (accessed July 15, 2021).

⁴ CDC, COVID Data Tracker: United States COVID–19 Cases, Deaths, and Laboratory Testing (NAATs) by State, Territory, and Jurisdiction, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days (accessed July 15, 2021).

⁵ WHO, Situation by Region, Country, Territory & Area, available at <https://covid19.who.int/table> (accessed July 15, 2021).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ See CDC, COVID Data Tracker: COVID–19 Vaccinations in the United States, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations> (accessed July 15, 2021).

⁸ See CDC, Travel Notice: COVID–19 in Canada (June 7, 2021), <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-4/coronavirus-canada> (accessed June 10, 2021); CDC, Travel Notice: COVID–19 in Mexico (June 7, 2021), <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-4/coronavirus-mexico> (accessed June 10, 2021). In addition, on June 8, 2021, the Department of State moved Canada and Mexico from Level 4 (Do Not Travel) to Level 3 (Reconsider Travel). See Department of State, Canada Travel Advisory (June 8, 2021), <https://travel.state.gov/>

Notice of Action

Given the outbreak and continued transmission and spread of COVID–19 within the United States and globally, the Secretary has determined that the risk of continued transmission and spread of the virus associated with COVID–19 between the United States and Canada poses an ongoing “specific threat to human life or national interests.”

U.S. and Canadian officials have mutually determined that non-essential travel between the United States and Canada currently poses additional risk of transmission and spread of the virus associated with COVID–19 and places the populace of both nations at increased risk of contracting the virus associated with COVID–19. Moreover, given the sustained human-to-human transmission of the virus, coupled with risks posed by new variants, returning to previous levels of travel between the two nations places the personnel staffing land ports of entry between the United States and Canada, as well as the individuals traveling through these ports of entry, at increased risk of exposure to the virus associated with COVID–19. Accordingly, and consistent with the authority granted in 19 U.S.C. 1318(b)(1)(C) and (b)(2),⁹ I have determined that land ports of entry along the U.S.-Canada border will continue to suspend normal operations and will only allow processing for entry

content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/canada-travel-advisory.html (accessed June 10, 2021); Department of State, Mexico Travel Advisory (June 8, 2021), <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-advisory.html> (accessed June 10, 2021).

⁹ 19 U.S.C. 1318(b)(1)(C) provides that “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury, when necessary to respond to a national emergency declared under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) or to a specific threat to human life or national interests,” is authorized to “[t]ake any . . . action that may be necessary to respond directly to the national emergency or specific threat.” On March 1, 2003, certain functions of the Secretary of the Treasury were transferred to the Secretary of Homeland Security. See 6 U.S.C. 202(2), 203(1). Under 6 U.S.C. 212(a)(1), authorities “related to Customs revenue functions” were reserved to the Secretary of the Treasury. To the extent that any authority under section 1318(b)(1) was reserved to the Secretary of the Treasury, it has been delegated to the Secretary of Homeland Security. See Treas. Dep’t Order No. 100–16 (May 15, 2003), 68 FR 28322 (May 23, 2003). Additionally, 19 U.S.C. 1318(b)(2) provides that “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, when necessary to respond to a specific threat to human life or national interests, is authorized to close temporarily any Customs office or port of entry or take any other lesser action that may be necessary to respond to the specific threat.” Congress has vested in the Secretary of Homeland Security the “functions of all officers, employees, and organizational units of the Department,” including the Commissioner of CBP. 6 U.S.C. 112(a)(3).

into the United States of those travelers engaged in “essential travel,” as defined below. Given the definition of “essential travel” below, this temporary alteration in land ports of entry operations should not interrupt legitimate trade between the two nations or disrupt critical supply chains that ensure food, fuel, medicine, and other critical materials reach individuals on both sides of the border.

For purposes of the temporary alteration in certain designated ports of entry operations authorized under 19 U.S.C. 1318(b)(1)(C) and (b)(2), travel through the land ports of entry and ferry terminals along the United States-Canada border shall be limited to “essential travel,” which includes, but is not limited to—

- U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents returning to the United States;
- Individuals traveling for medical purposes (e.g., to receive medical treatment in the United States);
- Individuals traveling to attend educational institutions;
- Individuals traveling to work in the United States (e.g., individuals working in the farming or agriculture industry who must travel between the United States and Canada in furtherance of such work);
- Individuals traveling for emergency response and public health purposes (e.g., government officials or emergency responders entering the United States to support federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial government efforts to respond to COVID-19 or other emergencies);
- Individuals engaged in lawful cross-border trade (e.g., truck drivers supporting the movement of cargo between the United States and Canada);
- Individuals engaged in official government travel or diplomatic travel;
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and the spouses and children of members of the U.S. Armed Forces, returning to the United States; and
- Individuals engaged in military-related travel or operations.

The following travel does not fall within the definition of “essential travel” for purposes of this Notification—

- Individuals traveling for tourism purposes (e.g., sightseeing, recreation, gambling, or attending cultural events).
- At this time, this Notification does not apply to air, freight rail, or sea travel between the United States and Canada, but does apply to passenger rail, passenger ferry travel, and pleasure boat travel between the United States and Canada. These restrictions are temporary in nature and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. EDT on August 21, 2021. This Notification may be

amended or rescinded prior to that time, based on circumstances associated with the specific threat. Meanwhile, as part of an integrated U.S. government effort and guided by the objective analysis and recommendations of public health and medical experts, DHS is working closely with counterparts in Mexico and Canada to identify conditions under which restrictions may be eased safely and sustainably.

The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is hereby directed to prepare and distribute appropriate guidance to CBP personnel on the continued implementation of the temporary measures set forth in this Notification. The CBP Commissioner may determine that other forms of travel, such as travel in furtherance of economic stability or social order, constitute “essential travel” under this Notification. Further, the CBP Commissioner may, on an individualized basis and for humanitarian reasons or for other purposes in the national interest, permit the processing of travelers to the United States not engaged in “essential travel.”

Alejandro N. Mayorkas,

Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

30 CFR Part 550

[Docket No.: BOEM 2021-0028]

RIN 1010-AE08

Maximum Daily Civil Penalty Amounts for Violations of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule amends the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) regulations that set maximum daily civil penalty (MDCP) amounts for violations of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA). The amended BOEM regulations will cross-reference regulations of the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) that also set MDCP amounts for FOGRMA violations. This cross-reference will ensure consistency between BOEM’s FOGRMA MDCP amounts and ONRR’s FOGRMA MDCP amounts. It will also ensure consistent

compliance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Inflation Adjustment Act) and related Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, while reducing unnecessary duplication of effort and costs to BOEM. **DATES:** This rule is effective on July 22, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deanna Meyer-Pietruszka, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Chief, Office of Policy, Regulation and Analysis, at deanna.meyer-pietruszka@boem.gov or by mail to 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 5238, Washington, DC 20240 or by calling (202) 208-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Legal Authority

The Inflation Adjustment Act, Public Law 114-74, sec. 701 (codified at 28 U.S.C. 2461 note), became law on November 2, 2015. It required Federal agencies to adjust the level of civil monetary penalties imposed under each agency’s regulations with an initial “catch-up” adjustment through rulemaking, if warranted, and then to make subsequent annual adjustments for inflation. Agencies were required to publish the initial annual inflation adjustments in the **Federal Register** no later than January 15, 2017, and are required to publish annual adjustments no later than January 15th of each subsequent year. The purpose of these inflation adjustments is to maintain the deterrent effect of civil penalties and to further the policy goals of the underlying statutes that authorize the penalties.

BOEM has authority to impose civil penalties for violations of FOGRMA under 30 U.S.C. 1719 and delegations of authority by the Secretary of the Interior. BOEM’s regulations implementing its authority to impose penalties under FOGRMA are found at 30 CFR 550.1450-1477. Specifically, BOEM may impose civil penalties under FOGRMA—after providing notice of noncompliance (NONC) and an opportunity to correct the violation—for noncompliance with any applicable statute, regulation, order, or lease term relating to any Federal oil or gas lease. See 30 CFR 550.1451. BOEM may also impose penalties under FOGRMA, without providing prior notice or an opportunity to correct the violation, for the knowing or willful preparation, maintenance, or submission of false, inaccurate, or misleading written information. See *id.* at 550.1460.

Sections 550.1453 and 550.1460 of BOEM’s existing regulations specify the MDCP amounts, as prescribed by