

to Mr. John M. Buckley, Jr., Executive
Secretary of the Resolution Trust
Corporation, at (202) 898-3604.

Dated: April 17, 1990.

Resolution Trust Corporation.

John M. Buckley, Jr.,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 90-9321 Filed 4-18-90; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-M

Corrections

Federal Register

Vol. 55, No. 77

Friday, April 20, 1990

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains editorial corrections of previously published Presidential, Rule, Proposed Rule, and Notice documents. These corrections are prepared by the Office of the Federal Register. Agency prepared corrections are issued as signed documents and appear in the appropriate document categories elsewhere in the issue.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 558

New Animal Drugs for Use in Animal Feeds: Lasalocid; Correction

Correction

In rule document 90-3502 beginning on page 5445 in the issue of Thursday, February 15, 1990, make the following correction:

On page 5445, in the third column, under "SUMMARY", in the fourth line "relations" should read "regulations".

BILLING CODE 1505-01-D

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 85E-0310]

Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; Lac-Hydrin™

Correction

In notice document 90-8085 beginning on page 13194 in the issue of Monday, April 9, 1990, make the following correction:

On page 13195, in the first column, in the fifth complete paragraph, in the

eighth line "May" should read "October".

BILLING CODE 1505-01-D

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 90E-0060]

Determination of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension; ATnativ

Correction

In notice document 90-8086 beginning on page 13193 in the issue of Monday, April 9, 1990, make the following correction:

On page 13193, in the third column, in the eighth line from the end "if" should read "is".

BILLING CODE 1505-01-D

The section on the FEDERAL REGISTER, containing notices of proposed rules, regulations, and orders, is printed by the Office of the Federal Register, located in the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20540.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 558

New Animal Drugs for Use in Animals
Federal Labeling Convention

On page 12102, in the first column, the first sentence should read as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 558

Extension of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension (21 CFR 312.61)

On page 12102, in the first column, the first sentence should read as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 558

Extension of Regulatory Review Period for Purposes of Patent Extension (21 CFR 312.61)

On page 12102, in the first column, the first sentence should read as follows:

Best Start Project

Friday
April 20, 1990

Part II

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Community Planning and Development

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities to Assist the Homeless

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development

[Docket No. N-90-1917; FR-2606-N-68]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities to Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized and underutilized Federal property determined by HUD to be suitable for possible use for facilities to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 20, 1990.

ADDRESSES: For further information, contact James Forsberg, room 7262, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 755-6300; TDD number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 755-5965. (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 Court Order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD is publishing this Notice to identify Federal buildings and real property that HUD has determined are suitable for use for facilities to assist the homeless. The properties were identified from information provided to HUD by Federal landholding agencies regarding unutilized and underutilized buildings and real property controlled by such agencies or by GSA regarding its inventory of excess or surplus Federal property.

The Order requires HUD to take certain steps to implement section 501 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411), which sets out a process by which unutilized or underutilized Federal properties may be made available to the homeless. Under section 501(a), HUD is to collect information from Federal landholding agencies about such properties and then to determine, under criteria developed in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Administrator of General Services (GSA), which of those properties are suitable for facilities to assist the homeless. The Order requires HUD to publish, on a weekly basis, a Notice in the *Federal Register* identifying the properties determined as suitable.

The properties identified in this Notice may ultimately be available for use by the homeless, but they are first subject to review by the landholding agencies pursuant to the court's Memorandum of December 14, 1988 and section 501(b) of the McKinney Act. Section 501(b) requires HUD to notify each Federal agency about any property of such agency that has been identified as suitable. Within 30 days from receipt of such notice from HUD, the agency must transmit to HUD: (1) Its intention to declare the property excess to the agency's need or to make the property available on an interim basis for use as facilities to assist the homeless; or (2) a statement of the reasons that the property cannot be declared excess or made available on an interim basis for use as facilities to assist the homeless.

First, if the landholding agency decides that the property cannot be declared excess or made available to the homeless for use on an interim basis the property will no longer be available.

Second, if the landholding agency declares the property excess to the agency's need, that property may, if subsequently accepted as excess by GSA, be made available for use by the homeless in accordance with applicable law and the December 12, 1988 Order and December 14, 1988 Memorandum, subject to screening for other Federal use.

Homeless assistance providers interested in any property identified as suitable in this Notice should send a written expression of interest to HHS, addressed by Judy Breittman, Division of Health Facilities Planning, U.S. Public Health Service, HHS, room 17A-10, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857; (301) 443-2265. (This is not a toll-free number.) HHS will mail to the interested provider an application packet, which will include instructions for completing the application. In order to maximize the opportunity to utilize a suitable property, providers should submit such written expressions of interest within 30 days from the date of this Notice. For complete details concerning the timing and processing of applications, the reader is encouraged to refer to HUD's *Federal Register* Notice on June 23, 1989 (54 FR 26421), as corrected on July 3, 1989 (54 FR 27975).

For more information regarding particular properties identified in this Notice (i.e., acreage, floor plan, existing sanitary facilities, exact street address), providers should contact the appropriate landholding agencies at the following addresses: U.S. Army: HQ-DA, Attn: DAEN-ZCI-P-Robert Conte; room 1E671 Pentagon, Washington, DC 20360-2600, (202) 693-4583; Corps of Engineers: Bob

Swieconeck, HQ-US Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CERE-MN, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20415-1000; (202) 475-2133; U.S. Air Force: H.L. Lovejoy, Bolling AFB, HQ-USAF/LEER, Washington, DC 20332-5000; (202) 767-4191; U.S. Navy: John Carr, Code 2041C, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332; (202) 325-0474; Dept. of Transportation: Angelo Picillo, Deputy Director, Administrative Services & Property Management, DOT, 400 Seventh Street, SW., room 10319D, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-4246. (These are not Toll-free numbers.)

Dated: April 13, 1990.

Paul Roitman Bardack,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Policy Development and Evaluation.

Suitable Land (by State)

Georgia

Fort Gordon—Land
Augusta, GA, Co: Richmond
Location: Outside Gate 5 across Highway 1 at Tobacco Road.
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013901
Status: Unutilized
Comment: 1.2 acres; subject to easement since 1961 to State of Georgia Highway Department for road right-of-way.

Illinois

Arlington USAR Center
1515 W. Central Road
Arlington Height, IL, Co: Cook
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013921
Status: Underutilized
Comment: 6 acres; access subject to negotiation.

New York

Manhattan Beach Housing
Fort Hamilton
Quentin Street Playground/Ball Field
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: COE
Property Number: 319011619
Status: Excess
Base Closure
Comment: 1/4 of an acre; playground equipment grassy area; most recent use—playground and ball field; scheduled to be vacated 8/15/90.

Suitable Buildings (by State)

Maine

Bldg. 1
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1
Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010590
Status: Excess
Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage line needs repair.

Bldg. 2
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010591
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 3
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010592
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 4
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010593
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 5
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010594
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 6
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010595
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 7
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010596
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 8
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010597
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon

tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 9
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010598
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 10
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010599
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 11
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010600
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 12
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010601
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 13
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010602
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 14
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010603
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 15
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010604
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Bldg. 16
Family Housing Annex, Loring Air Force Base
U.S. Route #1

Caswell, ME, Co: Aroostook
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010605
Status: Excess

Comment: 1116 sq. ft.; 1 story frame
residence; no utilities; asbestos and radon
tests pending; fuel tanks removed; sewage
line needs repair.

Michigan

Former C. G. Lightkeeper Sta.
Little Rapids Channel Project
St. Marys River
Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Co: Chippewa
Location: 3 miles east of downtown Sault Ste.
Marie.

Landholding Agency: COE
Property Number: 319011573
Status: Excess
Comment: 1411 sq. ft.; 2 story; wood frame on
.62 acres; needs rehab; secured area with
alternate access.

New York

Manhattan Beach Housing
Fort Hamilton
140 Quentin Street
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: COE
Property Number: 319011574
Status: Excess

Base closure
Comment: 13425 sq. ft.; 3 story concrete/
brick/residence; possible asbestos;
scheduled to be vacated 8/15/90.

Manhattan Beach Housing
Fort Hamilton
142 Quentin Street
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: COE
Property Number: 319011575
Status: Excess

Base closure
Comment: 13425 sq. ft.; 3 story concrete/
brick/residence; possible asbestos;
scheduled to be vacated 8/15/90.

Manhattan Beach Housing
Fort Hamilton
146 Quentin Street
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: COE
Property Number: 319011576
Status: Excess

Base closure
Comment: 13425 sq. ft.; 3 story concrete,
brick/residence; possible asbestos;
scheduled to be vacated 8/15/90.

Manhattan Beach Housing
Fort Hamilton
148 Quentin Street
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: COE
Property Number: 319011577
Status: Excess

Base Closure

182 Quentin Street
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: COE
Property Number: 319011618
Status: Excess
Base Closure
Comment: 12550 sq. ft.; 2 story brick/concrete residence; 2 family duplex; possible asbestos; scheduled to be vacated 8/15/90.

Pennsylvania

Bldg. 276
Army Depot
J Avenue
New Cumberland, PA, Co: York
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013879
Status: Underutilized
Comment: 9300 sq. ft.; 1 story wood frame; secured area with alternate access; most recent use—storage.

Bldg. 501
New Cumberland Army Depot
Mifflin and B Avenue
New Cumberland, PA, Co: York
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013893
Status: Unutilized
Comment: 1800 sq. ft.; 1 story concrete block; needs major repair; most recent use—storage.

Bldg. 279
New Cumberland Army Depot
G Avenue
New Cumberland, PA, Co: York
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013899
Status: Unutilized
Comment: 2360 sq. ft.; 2 story wood frame; interior gutted in fire drill; most recent use—troop housing.

South Carolina

Bldg. 5485
Marion Avenue
Fort Jackson, SC, Co: Richland
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013897
Status: Unutilized
Comment: 6303 sq. ft.; 1 story permanent structure; former heating plant; deteriorated condition.

Unsuitable Land (by State)

California

Mather Air Force Base
SE corner of Mather
Sacramento, CA, Co: Sacramento
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010609
Status: Unutilized
Base Closure
Reason: Secured Area.

Tennessee

Volunteer Army Ammo. Plant
Chattanooga, TN, Co: Hamilton
Location: Area around VAAP—outside fence in buffer zone.
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013890
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Within 2000 ft. of flammable or explosive material, secured area.

Washington

Land
Puffin Island Light House Res.
(See County), WA, Co: San Juan
Landholding Agency: DOT
Property Number: 879010013
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Other.
Comment: Island.

Unsuitable Buildings (by State)

California

Bldg. 590
Oakland Army Base
Oakland, CA, Co: Alameda
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013902
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 640 (West End)
Oakland Army Base
Oakland, CA, Co: Alameda
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013903
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 640 (North Side)
Oakland Army Base
Oakland, CA, Co: Alameda
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013904
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 790
Oakland Army Base
Oakland, CA, Co: Alameda
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013905
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 840
Oakland Army Base
Oakland, CA, Co: Alameda
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013906
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 3686
Mather Air Force Base
Francis and E Streets
Sacramento, CA, Co: Sacramento
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010606
Status: Unutilized
Base Closure
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 3494
Mather Air Force Base
Driscoll and F. Streets
Sacramento, CA, Co: Sacramento
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010607
Status: Unutilized
Base Closure
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 2566
Mather Air Force Base
5th and B Streets
Sacramento, CA, Co: Sacramento
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010608
Status: Unutilized
Base Closure
Reason: Secured Area.

Georgia

Fort Stewart
Sewage Treatment Plant
Ft. Stewart, GA, Co: Hinesville
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013922
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Other
Comment: Sewage treatment.

Maryland

Bldg. 312
SFC Adams Brandt & Reserve Center
700 Ordnance Road B
Baltimore, MD, Co: Anne Arundel
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013881
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Other
Comment: Collapsed roof/supporting beams cracked.

North Carolina

Bldg. 12
Sunny Point
Military Ocean Terminal
Southport, NC, Co: Brunswick
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013889
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Within 2000 ft. of flammable or explosive material, Secured Area.

New Jersey

Bldg. 13
Military Ocean Terminal
Bayonne, NJ, Co: Hudson
Location: Foot of 32nd Street and Route 169
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013890
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Floodway, Secured Area.

Bldg. 14
Military Ocean Terminal
Bayonne, NJ, Co: Hudson
Location: Foot of 32nd Street and Route 169
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013891
Status: Underutilized
Reason: Within 2000 ft. of flammable or explosive material, Floodway, Secured Area.

Bldg. 15A
Military Ocean Terminal
Bayonne, NJ, Co: Hudson
Location: Foot of 32nd Street and Route 169
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013892
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Floodway, Secured Area.

Bldg. 41
Military Ocean Terminal
Bayonne, NJ, Co: Hudson
Location: Foot of 32nd Street and Route 169
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013893
Status: Underutilized
Reason: Floodway, Secured Area.

Bldg. 100
Military Ocean Terminal
Bayonne, NJ, Co: Hudson
Location: Foot of 32nd Street and Route 169
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013894
Status: Unutilized

Reason: Floodway, Secured Area.

Bldg. 110
Military Ocean Terminal
Bayonne, NJ, Co: Hudson
Location: Foot of 32nd Street and Route 169
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013895
Status: Underutilized
Reason: Floodway, Secured Area.

Bldg. 111
Military Ocean Terminal
Bayonne, NJ, Co: Hudson
Location: Foot of 32nd Street and Route 169
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013896
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Floodway, Secured Area.

New York

Bldg. R-95
Naval Station
207 Flushing Avenue
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 779010256
Status: Unutilized
Base Closure
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. RD
Naval Station
207 Flushing Avenue
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 779010257
Status: Underutilized
Base Closure
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 305
Naval Station
207 Flushing Avenue
Brooklyn, NY, Co: Kings
Landholding Agency: Navy
Property Number: 779010258
Status: Underutilized
Base Closure
Reason: Secured Area.

Washington

Bldg. 6072
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013882
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 6E50
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013883
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 10A50
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013884
Status: Surplus
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. PA 1025
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army

Property Number: 219013885
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. PA 1027
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013886
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. PA 1026
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013887
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. P3908
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013888
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. DODSA
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Thurston
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013900
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T01213
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013907
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T02412
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013908
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T04523
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013909
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T07927
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013910
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T08973
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013911
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T08974
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013912
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T08975
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013913
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T09440
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013914
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T09441
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013915
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T09450
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013916
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. T09460
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013917
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 8982
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013918
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 8983
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013919
Status: Excess
Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 8985
Fort Lewis
(See County), WA, Co: Pierce
Landholding Agency: Army
Property Number: 219013920
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Secured Area.

Reason: Secured Area.

Wisconsin

Bldg. 202
440 Tactical Airlift Wing
300 E. College Avenue, Gen. Mitchell IAP
Milwaukee, WI, Co: Milwaukee
Landholding Agency: Air Force
Property Number: 189010610
Status: Unutilized
Reason: Within 2000 ft. of flammable or
explosive material.

Universe of Properties:
Total=116
Suitable=69
Suitable Buildings=66

Suitable Land=3
Unsuitable=47
Unsuitable Buildings=44
Unsuitable Land=3
Number of Resubmissions=0

[FR Doc. 90-9039 Filed 4-19-90; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

Federal Register

Friday
April 20, 1990

Part III

Department of Transportation

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Parts 13 and 14

Rules of Practice for FAA Civil Penalty
Actions; Final Rule

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Parts 13 and 14

[Docket No. 25690; Amdt. No. 13-20; Amdt. No. 14-1]

Rules of Practice for FAA Civil Penalty Actions

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule adopts changes to the rules of practice in FAA civil penalty actions not exceeding \$50,000 for a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, or of any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, and in actions regardless of amount for a violation of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder. In response to a commitment made to the Subcommittee on Aviation of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, the FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking soliciting comment on specific objections to the rules of practice raised by individuals and by organizations representing air carriers, airport operators, and pilots. In addition to soliciting written comments, the FAA also held a public meeting to allow interested persons to comment orally on the proposed changes and several policy issues.

The final rule is intended to fulfill the agency's commitment to the Subcommittee, to respond to the concerns of the aviation community, and to adopt specific changes to the rules of practice recommended by the Committee on Adjudication of the Administrative Conference of the United States. The changes adopted herein will apply to all pending cases as explained more fully in the preamble. The FAA also issued concurrently with this final rule a notice of proposed rulemaking, setting forth the rules of practice in their entirety; that notice is published in a separate part of today's Federal Register.

DATES: Effective date: April 20, 1990.

Effective date suspended: April 20, 1990, until further notice published in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise Daniels Ross, Special Counsel to the Chief Counsel (AGC-3), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3773

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Availability of the Final Rule

Any person may obtain a copy of this final rule by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Public Affairs, Attention: Public Information Center (APA-430), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-3484. Communications must identify the amendment number of this final rule. Persons interested in being placed on the mailing list for future NPRMs or final rules also should request a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedures.

Background

On August 31, 1988, by final rule, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) promulgated rules of practice for civil penalty actions conducted under a statutory amendment (Pub. L. 100-223; December 30, 1987) to the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, 53 FR 34646; September 7, 1988. That statutory amendment empowers the Administrator to assess civil penalties, not to exceed \$50,000, for violations of the Federal Aviation Act and the FAA's safety regulations promulgated thereunder. Under this authority, a civil penalty may be assessed only after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record. In the final rule, the FAA invited interested persons to comment on the rules of practice.

On March 17, 1989, the FAA issued a detailed disposition of the comments submitted on the rules of practice, responding to the commenters' objections to specific provisions of the rules of practice, 54 FR 11914; March 22, 1989. In the disposition of comments, the agency explained the purpose of the rules of practice and discussed its expectations of the manner in which cases would proceed under those rules.

The Air Transport Association of America filed a petition for review in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (No. 89-1195), challenging the agency's promulgation of the final rule and the rules of practice for civil penalty actions. Several persons in their individual capacity, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the National Air Carrier Association, the Air Line Pilots Association, and America West intervened in support of the Air Transport Association's petition for review. As the agency stated, this rulemaking was not intended to address the legal issues or arguments involved in that case. Nevertheless, the preamble to

this rule discusses legal issues to the extent they were raised by the commenters.

The Subcommittee on Aviation of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee held a hearing on November 15, 1989, to consider an extension of the FAA's authority to assess civil penalties administratively. The FAA and representatives of the aviation industry, among others, testified about the FAA's authority and the rules of practice implementing that authority. On November 22, 1989, shortly before Congress concluded its legislative session, a 4-month extension of the FAA's authority was passed. The President signed that bill into law on December 15, 1989 (Pub. L. 101-236). Under that law, the FAA's authority to assess civil penalties will expire on April 30, 1990, unless further extended by Congress.

At the conclusion of the congressional hearing, the FAA promised to issue an NPRM, soliciting public comment on proposals to address several objections to the rules of practice raised by those who commented previously on the rules and who testified at the hearing. The FAA issued the NPRM on February 28, 1990, 55 FR 7980; March 6, 1990. In light of the significant interest associated with the civil penalty program, the FAA took extraordinary steps to ensure wide and prompt distribution of the NPRM, including a mass mailing of copies to aviation industry groups and those persons who had commented previously on the rules of practice. The FAA also delivered copies of the NPRM to several members of Congress who expressed an interest in the civil penalty program or whose constituents had written to Congress about the program.

On March 13, 1990, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States (hereinafter Administrative Conference) transmitted to Congress the recommendation of the Committee on Adjudication regarding extension of the FAA's civil penalty assessment authority. The Committee's primary conclusion is that the civil penalty assessment program should be continued, albeit with some recommended procedural modifications to the rules of practice. The Committee recommended permanent authorization of a system for administrative imposition of civil penalties for violations of the Federal Aviation Act and the regulations. Recommendation of the Committee on Adjudication of the Administrative Conference at 1 (March 8, 1990) (hereinafter Adj.Com.Rec.). The changes proposed in the NPRM and adopted herein address the procedural modifications suggested by the

Committee on Adjudication.

Adj.Com.Rec. at 4 (March 8, 1990).

The Chairman also transmitted the report on the program and the rules of practice requested by the agency and prepared for the Office of the Chairman by Professor Richard Fallon of Harvard Law School (hereinafter "Fallon Report"). Professor Fallon's report supports continuation of a program of administratively-imposed civil money penalties for violations of aviation safety regulations. Professor Fallon, however, also suggested that responsibility for adjudication of the FAA's civil penalty cases should be transferred to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Professor Fallon also recommended specific changes to the rules of practice if the authority for administrative assessment of penalties is retained within the FAA. This final rule also addresses Professor Fallon's recommendations regarding the rules of practice.

The Committee on Adjudication held two public meetings to consider Professor Fallon's report. In the words of Marshall J. Breger, Chairman of the Administrative Conference, there was "vigorous participation and comment by affected groups" during the meetings. Chairman Breger's Letter to Congress at 1 (March 13, 1990). As noted by the Chairman, the Committee on Adjudication specifically addressed the issue of the appropriate forum to adjudicate FAA's civil penalty actions. After listening to comment from the aviation community and the agency, and after some deliberation, the Committee on Adjudication "was unable to decide whether a transfer of such responsibilities was warranted." The Committee noted that "[t]he Conference may at some time in the future address this issue if the program continues." Chairman Breger's Letter to Chairman Oberstar at 2 and 3 (March 26, 1990).

On April 13, 1990, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued its decision in *Air Transport Association v. Department of Transportation*. In a 2-1 decision, the court agreed with the petitioner that the FAA was obliged by section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act to provide notice and comment before the rules of practice in civil penalty actions were promulgated. The court held that the procedural challenge to promulgation of the rules of practice in August 1988 was ripe for review and granted the petition for review on that ground. The court expressed no opinion on the ripeness or the merits of the Air Transport

Association's several substantive challenges to the rules of practice.

The court ordered the FAA "not to initiate further prosecutions * * * until the agency has engaged in further rulemaking in accord with section 553." Slip op. at 21. In the exercise of its "equitable remedial powers," the court stated, "[T]he FAA is free to hold pending cases in abeyance while it engages in further rulemaking. If and when the FAA promulgates a final rule for adjudication of administrative penalty actions, it may then resume prosecution of these cases." *Id.* at 20-21.

In accordance with the court's decision, all FAA prosecuting attorneys will hold in abeyance all civil penalty cases initiated under the rules of practice and will not initiate any notice of proposed civil penalty until further notice. They also will not proceed even with informal procedures, such as informal conferences, until further notice. Chief Administrative Law Judge Mathias, of the Office of Hearings of the Department of Transportation, has also requested the administrative law judges to postpone hearings that had been scheduled and not to schedule any future hearings until further notice. The FAA and the Office of Hearings of the Department of Transportation will make every effort to notify all persons whose cases are pending of the court's decision, whether or not a hearing has been held, scheduled, or not yet scheduled.

In its opinion, the court stated that "Insofar as the FAA's pending notice of proposed rulemaking [issued on February 28, 1990 (55 FR 7980; March 6, 1990)] seeks public comment on the individual Rules that the agency intends to amend the agency may rely on the outcome of that rulemaking as a partial fulfillment of this mandate." Slip op. at 20. Concurrently with the publication of this final rule based on the February 28 NPRM, the FAA has published in a separate part of today's *Federal Register* another NPRM, setting forth the rules of practice in their entirety. Those rules of practice, published in the NPRM for comment, include the changes adopted pursuant to this final rule. In light of the court's decision, the FAA has suspended the effective date of the changes to the rules of practice amended by this final rule, pending further notification in the *Federal Register*.

Purpose of the Final Rule

This document is intended to complete the actions pledged by the FAA to the Subcommittee on Aviation of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation at the hearing held on November 15, 1989.

Pursuant to this commitment and in order to address the comments submitted on the rules and proposed changes, the FAA is amending the rules of practice either as proposed, as modified after review of the comments, or as suggested by different commenters.

As stated previously, the FAA believes that the rules of practice provide significant and substantial procedural safeguards and meet all requirements governing the procedural rights of persons and entities charged with violations.

Administrative adjudication of civil penalties is an effective and expeditious means of prosecuting aviation safety and security violations, and, in particular, is a far more efficacious procedure than one in which penalties may be adjudicated only in a U.S. district court. The authority granted by Congress contributes to the maintenance and improvement of aviation security and safety by providing swifter, more certain enforcement and increased accountability for violations of critical safety and security regulations.

Because the authority given to the Administrator was extended only temporarily, the FAA proceeded expeditiously with this rulemaking action. The aviation community's major objections to the rules of practice were directed at the issues raised in the NPRM. To the extent that swift rulemaking action addresses those concerns, the FAA believes that the public interest is served by issuing this final rule to adopt the amendments to the rules of practice contained herein, although the effective date of this final rule has been stayed pursuant to the court's order.

Discussion

Twenty-two comments were submitted on or before March 30, 1990, the closing date for receipt of comments specified in the NPRM. Three comments were received after the close of the comment period. The FAA considered all of these comments, including the material in the late-filed submissions.

The commenters include representatives of aviation entities regulated by the FAA, such as: The Air Transport Association of America (ATA); the National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA); Rocky Mountain Helicopters, Inc.; the National Air Transportation Association (NATA); the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA); the National Air Carrier Association (NACA); the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA); the Airport Operators Council

International (AOIC) and the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) (joint comments); the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA); the Allied Pilots Association (APA); America West Airlines, Inc. (endorsing the comments submitted by ATA); the Tobacco Institute; the Regional Airline Association (RAA); American Airlines; the NTSB Bar Association; Alaska Airlines; and Eastern Airlines. Several individuals and attorneys whose practice includes aviation-related enforcement actions also submitted comments on the NPRM.

Before the FAA issued the NPRM, the complaints of the aviation community focused on several areas of the rules of practice perceived to be biased in favor of the prosecution, to afford less process than desired in on-the-record hearings, or simply contrary to the interests of alleged violators. In this document, the FAA discusses the amendments to the rules of practice that (1) respond to the specific objections raised by various members and committees of Congress, by those who have commented previously, by those who testified at the hearing, and by those who commented on the NPRM and spoke at the public meeting; and (2) address the recommendations of Professor Fallon and the Committee on Adjudication.

1. Complaint

Objections had been raised that issuing an "order of civil penalty" as the complaint to initiate a hearing creates an apparent presumption of guilt before any hearing and may discourage alleged violators from contesting the allegations set forth in the complaint. In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to change the designation "order of civil penalty" to "complaint" throughout the rules of practice and redefine "complaint" in the definitions section. The FAA also proposed to revise § 13.16(h) to reflect that the agency will issue a "complaint" if a hearing is requested pursuant to the rules.

All but one of the commenters who address this issue agree with the FAA's proposal to change the designation of "order of civil penalty" to "complaint." In its support of the proposal, RAA notes that the word "complaint" is more descriptive of the actual nature of the document filed by the agency. Thus, the FAA is adopting the change as proposed. This change is consistent with the recommendation made by the Committee on Adjudication.

NATA also proposes that the FAA further change the definition of "complaint" to read, in part: "an alleged regulatory violation resulting in filing of

a complaint with the Hearing Docket." Because NATA did not further explain its proposal, the FAA assumes that NATA wants the definition of complaint to show clearly that it contains only allegations of a violation of the Federal Aviation Act, the Hazardous Materials Act, or the regulations promulgated pursuant to those acts. The FAA agrees that such a change would clarify the definition and is amending the definition of "complaint" in § 13.202 (by adding the italicized language) so that the definition reads as follows:

"Complaint" means a document issued by an agency attorney *alleging a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, or the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, which has been filed with the Hearing Docket after a hearing has been requested pursuant to § 13.16(e)(3) or § 13.16(g)(3) of this subpart.*

In the NPRM the FAA proposed to modify § 13.16(l) and § 13.232 (a) and (d) to provide that an administrative law judge would issue a decision "that affirms, modifies, or reverses the allegations contained, or the civil penalty sought, in a complaint." ALPA suggests that the italicized terms be deleted, insofar as they refer to an administrative law judge's findings on the allegations contained in the complaint, because these terms are "customarily used when there has already been a decision or findings by an adjudicative body, which are being reviewed by a higher authority." ALPA also raises this concern in its comment regarding modification of a civil penalty. To address this concern, the agency is amending those sections to ensure further that the allegations in the complaint reflect only the agency's belief that it has sufficient evidence to bring the complaint and proceed with the civil penalty action. Thus, § 13.16(l) and § 13.232 (a) and (d) are revised further to provide that the administrative law judge would issue an initial decision that "contains findings or conclusions on the allegations contained, and the civil penalty sought, in the complaint." The FAA believes that this revision addresses ALPA's concern that the language of the previous rule might be read as according more "weight and validity" to the allegations and the proposed penalty than intended.

2. Separation of Functions

Many commenters continue to object to the separation of functions provided in the rules of practice, even if amended as proposed by the agency in the NPRM. Some of these commenters believe that

placing prosecution and adjudication functions within the same agency creates an inherent problem of fairness or bias, that is eliminated only by transfer of adjudication either to the Federal courts or to the NTSB. Other commenters do not object to in-house adjudication *per se*, but recommend further separation to ensure a fair system of adjudication. Some recommend restrictions on the Administrator, some on the Chief Counsel, and some on the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation.

The agency has on four previous occasions explained the basis for the separation of functions contained in the rules of practice; on the last three occasions, it has responded to concerns that the separation is inadequate. On January 10, 1989, the agency announced how the separation would be implemented within the agency, and specifically within the Office of Chief Counsel. 54 FR 1335; January 13, 1989. On March 17, 1989, in its disposition of comments, the agency responded to the concerns expressed by commenters to the final rule issued on August 31, 1988. 54 FR 11914; March 22, 1989. On October 27, 1989, in the preamble to the final rule implementing the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), the agency responded to similar concerns expressed by four commenters. 54 FR 46196; November 1, 1989.

In the NPRM, the agency proposed specifically to amend the rules of practice in the respects recommended by Professor Fallon. Professor Fallon recommended:

[T]he FAA should consider expanding the prohibitions expressly stated within its separation-of-functions rule to incorporate the [Administrative Procedure Act's] prohibition against advice-giving, either to an [administrative law judge] or to the agency decisionmaker, by lawyers who have performed relevant investigative or prosecutorial functions.

Fallon Report at 42-44 (March 1990). In the notice, the agency proposed to amend § 13.203 to include the separation announced in the Federal Register in January 1989 and to prohibit agency employees who participate in an investigation from advising any person who performs adjudicative functions in a case, or a factually-similar case. 55 FR 7982; March 6, 1990.

The proposed rule satisfies the recommendation of the Committee on Adjudication of the Administrative Conference, which similarly suggests that the rules of practice "should make clear that employees with investigatory or prosecutorial responsibilities in a case in this program will not

communicate with the administrative law judge or agency decisionmaker in that case or a factually related case, except as counsel or a witness in the public proceedings." Adj. Com. Rec. at 5 (March 8, 1990).

Several commenters (RAA, AOCI and AAEE, AOPA) support the proposed changes, and no commenters object to them so far as they go. Therefore, to conform the rules of practice to the recommendations of Professor Fallon and the Committee on Adjudication, and to promote the appearance of fairness, the agency adopts these changes in this final rule. As amended, the rules of practice comply fully with the Administrative Procedure Act. Chairman Breger's Letter to Chairman Oberstar at 3 (March 26, 1990). (Copies of Chairman Breger's letter to Chairman Oberstar, and a related letter from AOPA to Chairman Oberstar, have been placed in the docket. Copies of a similar letter from Chairman Breger, dated March 14, 1990, to Chairman Oberstar, and a related letter from a private aviation attorney to Chairman Oberstar, also have been placed in the docket.)

Much of the criticism of the current and proposed separation of functions concerns the responsibilities of the Chief Counsel. Some commenters believe the Chief Counsel should play no role in advising the Administrator. Others believe that if the Chief Counsel continues to advise the Administrator, he should play no role whatsoever in the prosecution of a case from its inception or in the setting of enforcement policy.

Several commenters continue to object to the responsibility of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation under the rules of practice to advise the decisionmaker, and to function as the decisionmaker in a few minor procedural matters pursuant to a delegation from the Administrator.

Several commenters object to the Administrator's role in setting enforcement policy. This objection is tantamount to opposing any administrative imposition of civil penalties, regardless of the nature of the internal separation. Because it reflects the most fundamental disagreement with the separation of functions established within the FAA, this last objection will be addressed first.

a. *The view that any separation of functions is inadequate so long as both prosecutorial and adjudicative functions are housed within one agency.* As previously noted, some commenters are opposed to any combination of prosecutorial and adjudicative functions within the FAA. Several oppose a legislative extension of the agency's authority to assess civil penalties

administratively primarily because of this combination of functions, and urge that the authority be transferred to the NTSB. These commenters believe strongly that in-house adjudication is inherently wrong. APA states that it amounts to an "inherent intrusion on procedural fairness." Another commenter argues that "Nothing is more fundamentally unfair than to allow one party to litigation to determine the propriety of its actions in a case." EAA writes, "The new attempts to separate functions of the prosecutor and the decision-maker are insignificant as long as both of these functions remain within the same chain of command." EAA's representative at the public meeting stated, "Fundamentally we are opposed to the concept of allowing the FAA to be the final arbiter as the final decisionmaker in these cases." NBAA concludes: "The separation of function issue cannot be resolved through any Chinese Wall no matter how broad or temporal in its coverage * * *. The only realistic solution to this issue is to allow a truly independent organization which has no investment in the correctness of the legal interpretation or the existence of the facts to hear cases and their appeals."

These objections are expressed in both legal as well as policy terms. A representative comment is the following from a private attorney:

There is serious concern as to the constitutionality of the current administration of the [Program] in that the FAA has sole responsibility for the investigatory, prosecutorial and adjudicative functions of the Program and that, as a result, those charged with a violation and against whom the imposition of civil penalties are sought, are denied due process, and specifically, the opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing and appeal.

While the agency recognizes the sincerity with which these concerns have been expressed in this rulemaking and in previous submissions, the FAA believes these concerns are without substantive merit.

It has long been settled that placement of prosecutorial and adjudicative functions within the same agency does not violate principles of fairness or due process embedded in the U.S. Constitution. There are now over 200 statutes authorizing the assessment of civil penalties in which Congress has entrusted the prosecution and adjudication to one administrative agency. As the Chairman of the Administrative Conference has stated, "Such a system has never been held to violate basic principles of fairness or due process." Chairman Breger's Letter to Chairman Oberstar at 2 (March 26,

1990). "Although at least eleven Supreme Court opinions have dealt with problems about separation of functions, the Court has never held a system of combined functions to be a violation of due process." K. Davis, 3 *Administrative Law Treatise* 343 (2d ed. 1980). Professor Fallon states, "Today, there should be little doubt about the constitutionality of administrative assessment of civil money penalties for violations of the Federal Aviation Act and its implementing regulations." Fallon Report at 17 (March 1990).

Indeed, in his 1959 hornbook entitled *Administrative Law Text*, Professor Davis, one of the preeminent administrative law scholars in this country, wrote:

We have moved well beyond the early crude thinking that failed to recognize that functions can be adequately separated within a single agency; we now recognize that an organization can properly perform inconsistent functions so long as the parts of the organization are kept sufficiently separate.

K. Davis, *Administrative Law Text* 243 (1959).

Administrative adjudication has long been advocated by the Administrative Conference as an expeditious, efficient, and effective, yet fair system of enforcing civil penalty regulatory schemes. The Administrative Conference first endorsed in-house adjudication in 1972. 1 CFR 305.72-6. Since that time, the statutes authorizing administrative adjudication have proliferated, to the point where today it is widely recognized as the standard, traditional method for civil penalty adjudication within the Federal government. The view expressed fervently by several commenters that the combination of prosecutorial and adjudicative functions within a single agency such as the FAA constitutes an inherent violation of basic constitutional norms is no longer considered a serious proposition of law.

b. *The view that the combination of adjudication and policymaking functions in the Administrator violates principles of fairness.* Two commenters object that if the Administrator is the decisionmaker under the rules of practice, he should have no role in setting enforcement policy. The representative of American Airlines at the public meeting stated, "If the Administrator is to be the final decisionmaker then he cannot be involved or should not be involved in the policies which lead to the initiation of the cases before him." American's written comments conclude that the "dual capacity of setting policy for the

agency and acting as appellate judge in cases brought to enforce the Administrator's policies . . . may create an appearance of conflict for the Administrator qua adjudicator."

NBAA believes that the agency's organizational structure and lines of authority make it difficult or impossible for the Administrator and his Counsel to initiate enforcement emphasis programs and to remain objective in their review of those same cases when they are appealed to the Administrator. It defies logic to believe that when the Administrator orders field personnel to pursue vigorously a certain set of cases, the Administrator's judgment on the law and the merits will be totally dispassionate when the very same fact pattern, which his original guidance indicated was a problem, is returned to him for review. It is axiomatic to postulate that he will be forced to affirm an action which his initial instructions caused to happen; to do otherwise would be to send a message which contradicts the Administrator's initial policy directive. Even if this is not the case, the perception it gives will taint the whole process.

These comments are fundamentally at odds with law and sound public policy. NBAA's comments use the terms "programs" and "cases" interchangeably, and blur the distinction between fact, law and policy, without recognizing the basis for the separation of functions required by the Administrative Procedure Act. If read literally, these comments could call into question the integrity of the Administrator's discharge of his responsibilities.

The purpose of the requirement of separation of functions is to ensure a fair hearing by "some protection of the judging function." K. Davis, 3 *Administrative Law Treatise* 369 (2d ed. 1980). Fairness demands that the judicial function be free of improper influence. Under the rules of practice, the judging function reposed in administrative law judges is fully protected; indeed, as the Chairman of the Administrative Conference has noted, "the FAA program actually contains one form of separation of functions not found in most civil penalty regimes[.]" * * * the [administrative law judges] who preside at the hearings in FAA civil penalty cases do not work for the FAA." Chairman Breger's Letter to Chairman Oberstar at 2 (March 26, 1990).

Adjudication is not rendered unfair because the adjudicator—either the administrative law judge or the Administrator—has previously formed an opinion of law or policy that may affect the outcome of a case before the adjudicator. What is required is impartiality in the determination of facts, the credibility of witnesses, and

the application of the law to a particular set of circumstances. See K. Davis, 3 *Administrative Law Treatise* 371-389 (2d ed. 1980). The Administrator's prior pronouncements of agency enforcement policy, even should they affect a case brought before him, in no way render the Administrator unfit to decide the case fairly. Indeed, it is incumbent even on administrative law judges to apply faithfully the law and policy set forth as agency policy by the head of the agency. As Professor Bruff states, "Everyone agrees that [administrative law judges] must follow their agency's regulations and published policies as well as the statutes and caselaw." "Restructuring Judicial Review in Administrative Law," at 22. (September 1, 1989) (draft report prepared for Federal Courts Study Committee and the Administrative Conference). See also, Zwerdling, *Reflections on the Role of an Administrative Law Judge*, 25 *Ad.L.Rev.* 9, 12-13 (1973) ("Once we have stressed the importance of maintaining the administrative law judge's independence, however, the other side of the coin is recognition that he is governed and bound by his agency's rulings and directives * * *"). So it hardly seems unfair to the respondent that the head of the agency, on review of an administrative law judge's initial decision, applies that law or policy.

The Supreme Court's statement in *Morgan v. United States*, 313 U.S. 409, 421 (1941), is apropos.

Cabinet officers charged by Congress with adjudicatory functions are not assumed to be flabby creatures any more than judges are. Both may have an underlying philosophy in approaching a specific case. But both are assumed to be men of conscience and intellectual discipline, capable of judging a particular controversy fairly on the basis of its own circumstances.

This reasoning explains the exception of "a member or members of the body comprising the agency" from the separation of functions requirement of the Administrative Procedure Act.

5 U.S.C. 554(d)(2)(C). Simply put, the Administrator is not subject to the separation of functions requirement of the Administrative Procedure Act. Logically, this exception follows from the very nature of administrative agencies and of administrative adjudication. In an agency, the setting of policy is ultimately the responsibility and function of the head of the agency; administrative adjudication assumes that the final decisionmaker is the agency head or tribunal. Suggesting, as do American Airlines and NBAA, that the Administrator ought to be put to a choice, either to set policy or to adjudicate, runs counter to longstanding,

previously-unquestioned administrative practice, and would be inconsistent with sound public policy.

The pre-adjudication actions, which NBAA believes prejudice the Administrator's capacity to decide cases "dispassionately," consist of "initiat[ing] enforcement emphasis programs," "order[ing] field personnel to pursue vigorously a certain set of cases," and issuing "guidance" and "policy directives." These activities are general and abstract, not specific to a case or person. They in no way interfere with the judging function; indeed, as noted above, they may properly inform the judging function. Even assuming that policy or guidance is issued as a result of a specific incident, or "fact pattern," there is nothing wrong with the Administrator's review of a subsequent case that fits the policy or guidance. An adjudicator must still find facts, and reach conclusions of law, in each case according to the testimony and other evidence in the record. Those findings and conclusions are subject to judicial scrutiny for reasonableness.

c. *The view that the Chief Counsel's role in (1) the general supervision of agency attorneys, (2) making and executing enforcement policy, or (3) participating in a case before it is initiated, contravenes basic principles of fairness and the Administrative Procedure Act.* Several comments focus on the Chief Counsel's responsibilities under the rules of practice; most recommend specifically that the Chief Counsel not participate in advising the decisionmaker. Should the Chief Counsel continue to advise the decisionmaker, ATA, ALPA and one private attorney object to any role played by the Chief Counsel in the enforcement process, at any stage of a case.

Under § 13.203, the separation of functions is triggered by the issuance of a notice of proposed civil penalty. Thus, in theory, as ATA fears, the Chief Counsel "could advise the decisionmaker in a case that he caused to be filed!" ATA recommends that the so-called "temporal clause" of § 13.203 be removed.

As the agency explained in its disposition of comments following issuance of the final rule, the temporal clause is patterned after the separation of functions provision in Departmental regulations governing hearings cases brought under 14 CFR chapter 2, parts 200-399. "In both sets of rules, the separation of functions is effected only after an enforcement case is initiated." 54 FR at 11915; March 22, 1989. Under DOT rules, the separation "applies after

the initiation of a hearing or enforcement case," 14 CFR 300.4; a case is "initiated" upon the filing of a complaint.

The current rule also is consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Under the Act, the same individual may "accuse," in the sense of deciding that proceedings should be instituted, and may also judge. This is true whether the individual is a head of an agency or a subordinate.

K. Davis, *Administrative Law Text* 242 (1959). "The Act does not and probably should not forbid the combination with judging of instituting proceedings[.]" *Id.* at 244. Asimow, *When the Curtain Falls: Separation of Functions in Federal Administrative Agencies*, 81 Colum.L.Rev. 759, 766-768, 770-772 (1981).

The agency appreciates the concern that the Chief Counsel is permitted under the current rules of practice to be involved in some capacity with a case before a notice of proposed civil penalty is issued, and thereafter to advise the decisionmaker in that case. Although this has not happened in the agency's administration of this program, and the Chief Counsel has stated that he would recuse himself from advising the decisionmaker in any case in which he participated before the notice was issued, the agency is amending further § 13.203(b) by removing the last sentence to alleviate the commenters' concern.

Thus amended, the rule will not preclude the participation of the Chief Counsel in exercising prosecutorial discretion before the initiation of a particular enforcement case that ultimately is initiated under the civil penalty authority. In some situations, a matter may be referred to the Office of Chief Counsel with a recommended sanction of certificate action, or a civil penalty in excess of \$50,000. In certain significant cases, the matter may be referred specifically to the Chief Counsel for his review and approval to initiate. In such cases, it does no violence to the separation of functions provided under the rules or required by the Administrative Procedure Act to allow the Chief Counsel to exercise prosecutorial discretion in determining the appropriate type and amount of sanction. Should the Chief Counsel determine that a lower civil penalty is more appropriate than one in excess of \$50,000 or a certificate action, and thereafter a notice of proposed civil penalty is issued, the Chief Counsel will recuse himself from advising the decisionmaker in that case or a factually-related case, as required by § 13.203(b) and the Administrative Procedure Act.

A more fundamental objection is that the Chief Counsel cannot provide "dispassionate counsel" to the decisionmaker because of the Chief Counsel's primary role in setting and carrying out enforcement policy. NBAA states:

The FAA Chief Counsel is the chief legal officer of the agency. His advice is not only sought as a predicate to any enforcement program; it is a legal prerequisite to such an agency action. The Chief Counsel routinely participates in the Administrator's highest councils and through his voicing of legal and policy opinions contributes significantly to the agency's enforcement policy and priorities.

The agency's response to the objection to the Administrator's involvement in creating enforcement policy applies also to the objection to the Chief Counsel's involvement. Fair adjudication is not compromised by previous involvement in policymaking by the decisionmaker or those who advise the decisionmaker. The fundamental distinction between fact and policy is captured by the Administrative Procedure Act's provision on separation of functions, which is addressed to a case or a "factually-related case." (Similar is the prohibition on administrative law judges from "consulting a person or party on a fact in issue, unless on notice * * *") 5 U.S.C. 554(d)(1). Professor Asimow states:

In my view, the [Administrative Procedure Act's] language is dispositive; by itself, an institutional tie to an adversary does not make one an adversary * * *. Inclusion of the words "in a case" limits the statute to those persons with personal involvement in the particular case under adjudication or one that is factually related.

81 Colum.L.Rev. at 774. Professor Fallon notes that an earlier ATA proposal "appears to go beyond the [Administrative Procedure Act] by forbidding the Chief Counsel to perform any investigative or prosecutorial functions, or to supervise employees engaged in such functions, at any stage in any case." Fallon Report at 44 n.234 (March 1990).

Removing the Chief Counsel from advising the decisionmaker would deprive the Administrator of the counsel of the senior legal official of the agency, to the potential detriment of sound, fair, and consistent decisionmaking. Resort by agency heads to senior advisors, such as an agency's senior legal official, is entirely appropriate and should be encouraged. It was contemplated by the drafters of the Administrative Procedure Act. The 1947 *Attorney General's Manual on the Administrative Procedure Act*, at 56-57, generally

considered to be the best contemporaneous construction of the Act, stated why this is so:

The expertise of an administrative agency is not limited to the heads of the agency; it includes also the staff of specialists through whom and with whose assistance most of the agency's functions are carried on. The issues in adjudicatory cases, while frequently less complex and with narrower policy implications than are often involved in rule making, present in many cases difficult questions of law and policy * * *. In determining such issues, agency heads have consulted with their principal advisors and specialists. Indeed, it is clearly in the public interest that they continue to do so.

The *Attorney General's Manual* uses an agency's general counsel as an example of this advice-giving, noting its permissibility so long as the counsel's office staff is organized so that individuals engaged in investigative or prosecuting functions are not also involved in advising the decisionmaker. *Id.* at 57-58. Asimow, 81 Colum.L.Rev. at 765. As the agency has explained previously, the Office of Chief Counsel is so organized. 54 FR 1335; January 13, 1989 and 54 FR 46196; November 1, 1989.

As part of its comment on this issue, ATA states:

* * * [I]ndividual cases should be left to the decisionmaker and truly independent advisors. If legal advice is needed, the agency should assign an attorney, who otherwise would not be involved in any aspect of investigation or prosecution to be the decisionmaker's attorney advisor.

ATA, in a footnote, states that the position of "attorney advisor" would resemble that of the attorney in the Office of the General Counsel who advises the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs in the Department's carrier selection proceedings for international route authority.

Although referenced by ATA, the Department's separation of functions in such proceedings does not provide support for ATA's recommendation. In international route cases, members of the General Counsel's Office participate in three capacities. During the hearing stage of such a proceeding, a member of the staff of the Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, acting as "public counsel," presents a position to the administrative law judge. Following the administrative law judge's recommended decision, the Assistant General Counsel for International Law assigns a staff member to assist the senior career official (usually the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs) in reviewing the recommended

decision. The action taken by the senior career official is subject to additional review by the Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs (or, in some cases, the Secretary). The Assistant General Counsel for International Law assigns a different staff attorney to advise this decisionmaker. This separation of functions is similar to the separation at the FAA for civil penalty cases.

At all stages of the process, the Department carefully maintains a proper separation of functions. Attorneys acting in their respective roles in the process do not communicate with one another, orally or in writing, with respect to the case. Nor is the separation of functions compromised by common supervision of the attorneys' work. For example, the Assistant General Counsel for International Law does not review the work performed on a case by the staff attorney assigned to advise the senior career official.

The third objection to the Chief Counsel's responsibilities, expressed specifically by NBAA and AOPA, is that his general supervision of all attorneys in the Office of Chief Counsel, including agency attorneys who prosecute civil penalty actions, as well as the attorneys who advise the decisionmaker, may tend to intimidate those attorneys from the proper performance of their duties. AOPA cites *Columbia Research Corp. v. Schaffer*, 256 F.2d 677 (2d Cir. 1958), in support of that proposition.

First, concerning the Chief Counsel's supervision of prosecutors, the Chief Counsel does not directly supervise agency attorneys engaged in the prosecution of cases in the program, nor their supervisors. The Deputy Chief Counsel is their ultimate supervisor; even this official, however, is not their first, and often not their second level supervisor. To the extent the Chief Counsel may take into account the handling of a prosecution under the program in evaluating the performance of an attorney, this consideration in no way interferes with the judging function, the independence of an administrative law judge, or the burden of proof placed on the prosecution by the rules of practice. It is difficult to envision any adverse effect on the fair adjudication of a case resulting from such supervision.

The separation of functions reviewed by the court of appeals in *Columbia Research* is different than the FAA's separation. In that case, the court disapproved of a separation whereby an Assistant General Counsel prosecutes and the General Counsel decides. Under the FAA rules of practice, the decisionmaker ordinarily is the Administrator, an official whose

supervision of agency staff attorneys in an agency of 50,000 employees is diffuse to such a degree that the danger of intimidation, if any, is remote. In *Columbia Research*, the final decisionmaker was the General Counsel. In any event, the court's discussion of the adequacy of the separation of functions is better described as dictum, not an "alternate holding," as AOPA believes, 256 F.2d at 680 ("[W]e * * * reserve any final decision as to that * * *"). Indeed, the court's decision was later withdrawn on rehearing because of a superseding Supreme Court decision on a different issue, and thus does not constitute binding precedent, 256 F.2d at 680-681.

Moreover, the reasoning in *Columbia Research* has been described as "unsound." Asimow, 81 Colum.L.Rev. at 774. "[I]t is difficult to see how the purely formal commingling involved in *Columbia Research* is objectionable." *Id.* at 775. Professor Asimow's view that a stricter separation is appropriate in penalty proceedings, at 792, is not required by law, as AOPA appears to recognize in its criticism of the NPRM as "merely duplicat[ing] the requirements of the [Administrative Procedure Act]." Professor Asimow notes, "In the event that strict separation * * * is considered too confining, the existing [Administrative Procedure Act] provisions clearly permit a less rigorous system." 81 Colum.L.Rev. at 775 n.161.

Second, concerning the Chief Counsel's supervision of advisors to the decisionmaker, NBAA fears that the Chief Counsel's "pervasive, yet hidden, power [to approve promotions, performance reviews, assignments, etc.] consciously, or even more powerfully unconsciously, may influence any FAA attorney in her or his advice to the Administrator on an appeal." It is difficult to understand the basis for this concern. Assuming the Chief Counsel advises the decisionmaker, there is nothing wrong with his supervision of other attorneys who also perform that function. "Judging should be separated from functions that are incompatible with judging; that is what is meant by separation of functions." K. Davis, 3 *Administrative Law Treatise* 340 (2d ed. 1980). Because the Chief Counsel and the staff attorney would both be functioning as advisors to the decisionmaker, and both would play no role in the investigation or prosecution of the case or of a factually-related case, there is no combination of functions; there is only one function.

d. *The view that the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation's role is inconsistent with principles of fairness and the Administrative Procedure Act.*

The objections here are that the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation (1) is "dependent on the degree to which the Chief Counsel and the Administrator view his performance" (NBAA), (2) has an "institutional" or "built-in" bias (NBAA, FAA in oral comments at the public meeting, and a private attorney), (3) is responsible for "keeping abreast of enforcement decisions," and "must maintain an active interest in * * * enforcement proceedings and decisions concerning th[e] FAR," (a private attorney) and finally, (4) solely by reason of his status as an FAA lawyer, should not act as an adjudicator at all (a private attorney).

The first objection has been discussed earlier; because all officials in the chain of command are involved in adjudication, there is no combination of functions, much less an improper one. But NBAA's statement that,

It would take a very brave [Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation] to tell the Administrator or the Chief Counsel that a Demonstration Program case should be dismissed because the interpretation of the [Federal Aviation Regulations], upon which the Complaint was based (and the initial [Administrator's] enforcement priority), was faulty[.]

unjustifiably questions the professionalism of the Office of the Chief Counsel and the Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation. Frank, candid, and independent advice to agency heads is required of all senior legal officials in the government. The regular exercise of such advice is not generally considered a badge of courage.

The agency has previously responded at length to the second objection, in the preamble to the interim final rule implementing EAJA (54 FR 46196-46198; November 1, 1989), and that discussion will not be repeated here. It is unclear whether the commenters' third objection is independent of their second objection. If it is, it runs counter to the public policy, discussed earlier, that favors the agency head's consultation with informed staff members, including lawyers, who have not otherwise been involved in the investigation or prosecution of the case.

The fourth objection concerns the ability of lawyers to act as adjudicators. Lawyers generally are considered well equipped to perform as adjudicators and, therefore, would appear to be qualified to advise or serve the decisionmaker. This objection may stem from a misunderstanding by some commenters as to the identity of the decisionmaker. The rules of practice have been explicit from the start that the

Administrator is the decisionmaker. The Administrator's reliance on lawyers for advice in making and issuing decisions is logical, given the nature of the issues presented for decision in civil penalty cases, and is common practice in the Federal government. That lawyers provide such assistance does not render them "decisionmakers" any more than it transforms judicial law clerks into Federal judges.

The limited delegation from the Administrator to the Chief Counsel and the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation does not change that reality. That delegation, by memorandum dated January 29, 1990, was made pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 322(b) and § 13.202, and is published concurrently with this notice, but in a separate part of the *Federal Register*. It is similar to delegations in other agencies and is designed to obviate the agency head's review and consideration of minor, procedural, or unopposed matters.

A few commenters (NACA, ALPA, AOPA, Eastern Airlines at the public meeting) recommend that in place of the Chief Counsel and attorneys in the Office of Chief Counsel, the Administrator should create a panel of advisors wholly independent of that office. While some agencies in the Federal government have created an office of advisors to the decisionmaker entirely separate from the legal office of the agency, such degree of separation is not required by the Administrative Procedure Act. It may well be counterproductive, in that the Administrator would be deprived of the counsel of his senior legal enforcement official. Interestingly, one commenter who recommends a panel of advisors would include the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation as a panelist.

NATA and American Airlines (at the public meeting) recommend that any panel of advisors include persons from outside government. NATA recommends, in addition to the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation, "one operations/regulatory expert, one independent counsel specializing in aviation law from outside the FAA, and one industry representative on a rotating basis." Apart from the notion that adjudicatory deliberations have been historically considered to be governmental functions, including an industry representative would inherently constitute a conflict of interest. The Administrator's decisions would be subject to challenge from any respondent who is a competitor of the "independent counsel's" or industry representative's employer.

3. Effect of admissions

Some commenters objected that a sentence in § 13.220(l)(3), regarding the use of admissions by the FAA, gave the agency an "advantage" without a corresponding benefit to a respondent. The relevant sentence stated:

Any matter admitted or deemed admitted [pursuant to a written request for admission] under this section that results in a finding of violation may be used by the Administrator in a subsequent enforcement proceeding.

The FAA proposed to delete this section from the rules of practice. ATA agrees with the FAA that the easiest way to address the commenters' concern with this provision is simply to delete it from the rules. A majority of the commenters, including NACA, ALPA, AOPA, AOCI and AAAE, agree with the proposal. Despite the commenters' support for the proposed deletion, the reasons for that support vary. Some state that deleting this sentence will lead to the development of an evidentiary rule in the context of specific cases. Others believe that deleting this sentence will enable the administrative law judges, in their discretion, to permit use of admissions where they are relevant or necessary to avoid an unfair result. Insofar as the FAA is eliminating its use of respondent's prior admissions in future enforcement actions, the FAA believes that deleting the second sentence of § 13.220(l)(3) addresses the concern of most commenters because it eliminates a possible asymmetrical use of admissions in civil penalty actions.

While supporting the proposed deletion, ALPA suggests that the rule should further state that statements made in the course of informal procedures under § 13.16(f) may not be used as evidence in a civil penalty action. The FAA already has so limited itself in FAA Order 2150.3A, Compliance and Enforcement Program (hereinafter "Order 2150.3A"). Paragraph 1207(a)(4) states:

The informal conference should not be used as a means to gather additional evidence or admissions to prove the charges in the enforcement action. However, any additional information obtained may be used for impeachment purposes if the alleged violator changes his story with regard to a material fact in subsequent proceedings.

This paragraph of Order 2150.3A limits any subsequent use of information learned at an informal conference to "material" facts that may be used, if found relevant and material by an administrative law judge, solely for impeachment of testimony given under oath. Admissions by a respondent at an informal conference may not be used to sustain the agency's burden of proving

at the hearing the allegations in its complaint. In light of this existing limitation on the agency, the FAA is not adopting this suggestion in this rulemaking.

Moreover, § 13.220(l)(3) deals only with formal admissions made during the course of discovery proceedings under the rules. It is possible, in theory, that a party could submit a request for admission of statements or matters developed during informal procedures. However, the administrative law judge has the discretion under the existing rules to determine whether such statements are relevant or material to issues in the action and, thus, whether such statements should or must be excluded under the rules of practice. As a matter of discovery practice in these civil administrative proceedings, the FAA does not believe that adding such a provision is necessary.

4. Opinion Testimony, Hearsay Testimony, and FAA Employee Testimony

Previous commenters objected, although for different reasons and from different perspectives, to both sentences in § 13.227. The commenters generally emphasized two objections: (1) The scope of factual testimony by FAA employees and (2) expert or opinion testimony of FAA employees.

a. Factual Testimony of FAA Employees

As to the scope of an FAA employee's factual testimony, the commenters objected to a sentence in § 13.227 that stated:

An employee of the agency may testify in a proceeding governed by this subpart only as to facts, within the employee's personal knowledge, giving rise to the incident or violation.

The commenters argued that this sentence implicitly limited admission of relevant factual testimony by an FAA employee. In the NPRM, the FAA acknowledged that the sentence, when read standing alone, facially suggested inadmissibility of hearsay testimony by an FAA employee, otherwise admissible under the rules. The FAA also noted, however, that this sentence was never intended to, and would not in context, result in wholesale exclusion of any factual testimony of an FAA employee.

To address the commenters' previous concerns regarding this section, the FAA proposed in the NPRM to delete the entire sentence. Thus, FAA employees could testify as to any fact relevant and material to a disputed issue, and hearsay testimony by agency employees would be admissible. Adj.Com.Rec. at 5 (March 8, 1990). There was broad

support for the agency's proposal. ATA, NACA, AOCI and AAAE, and ALPA agree with the FAA's proposal, in essence stating that respondents should be able to elicit relevant factual testimony (including hearsay) from all sources (including FAA employees). Therefore, in light of the general support for the agency's proposal, the FAA is deleting the second sentence of § 13.227 as proposed.

Related to this issue, two private attorneys and Rocky Mountain Helicopters object to the admissibility and use of hearsay testimony, either as a general matter or particularly when given by an FAA employee, because such testimony is "not admissible" in Federal courts. Although hearsay is deemed inadmissible in Federal court under Rule 802 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 803 contains 24 distinct exceptions to Rule 802 under which hearsay testimony is admitted routinely in Federal court proceedings. And, while the Federal courts have chosen to tailor the admissibility and use of such evidence in their proceedings, the Federal courts also have stated that hearsay generally is admissible and widely accepted in civil administrative proceedings. *Veg-Mix, Inc. v. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture*, 832 F.2d 601, 606 (D.C. Cir. 1987) ("... [I]f hearsay evidence meets the standards of the Administrative Procedure Act by being relevant, material, and unrepetitious * * * agencies are entitled to weigh it according to its 'truthfulness, reasonableness, and credibility' " (citations omitted)); *Evoevich v. Consolidation Coal Co.*, 789 F.2d 1021 (3d Cir. 1986), citing *Richardson v. Perales*, 402 U.S. 389, 410 (1971); *Johnson v. United States*, 628 F.2d 187, 190 (D.C. Cir. 1980).

The NTSB has recognized the admissibility and use of hearsay evidence in its proceedings. *Administrator v. Irish*, NTSB Order EA-3080 at 7 (March 14, 1990); *Administrator v. Budar*, 3 NTSB 1913, 1914 (1979); *Administrator v. Ortnier*, 2 NTSB 393, 397 n.5 (1973); *Administrator v. Trier*, 2 NTSB 379, 380 (1973) ("It is axiomatic that hearsay evidence is admissible in administrative proceedings, in contradistinction to practice in law courts. The issue with respect to hearsay concerns the weight to be attached to it in each case, rather than to its admissibility").

In light of the broad admissibility of this evidence in administrative proceedings and the discretion vested in the administrative law judge to determine the weight accorded hearsay evidence, the FAA is not revising the

rules of practice to restrict the admissibility and use of relevant and material evidence, including hearsay. Notably, the majority of the commenters agree with the FAA that hearsay testimony should be admitted, particularly as it applies to the admissibility of relevant and material factual testimony given by FAA employees in civil penalty actions. Although hearsay is admissible under the rules of practice, hearsay evidence (admissible under § 13.222(c)) must meet the admissibility criteria in § 13.222(b) applicable to all evidence in these proceedings.

Because NBAA seems to object to any asymmetry in the evidentiary rules of practice, the FAA presumes that the revisions address NBAA's concern regarding this section. Deleting this sentence results in a single rule applicable to both parties that governs the admissibility and use of relevant and material factual testimony, whether offered by the FAA or a respondent.

b. Expert or Opinion Testimony of FAA Employees

With regard to expert or opinion testimony by FAA employees, some previous commenters also objected to the first sentence of § 13.227, which stated, in pertinent part:

An employee of the agency may not testify as an expert or opinion witness, for any party other than the agency, in any proceeding governed by this subpart.

As noted in the NPRM, this limitation on agency employee expert or opinion testimony merely reflects an identical limitation in Departmental rules issued by the Office of the Secretary (OST) of the Department of Transportation, governing all employees of the Department. 49 CFR 9.5(a). The FAA reviewed both the recommendation of the Committee on Adjudication and Professor Fallon's report and in the NPRM discussed the policy basis for the agency's limitation. The agency also explained its concern about deleting this sentence, noting its belief that keeping this provision in the rules better serves the public interest, avoiding the real potential for confusion regarding "official" and "unofficial" testimony by persons employed by the agency. Accordingly, the NPRM proposed to retain the limitation. A number of commenters object.

NBAA, in support of its position, cites the possible need of a private party to introduce into evidence a prior statement by an FAA employee of an opinion on the requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations, on which statement the private party had relied.

While agreeing generally with the proposed change, AOPA's support is conditioned on a two-fold caveat that prompts AOPA to recommend that the provision be deleted. Like NBAA, AOPA is concerned that (1) the rule could prevent a respondent from eliciting what could be considered expert or opinion testimony from an employee called by the agency and (2) there may be circumstances (reviewed and resolved on a case-by-case basis by an adjudicator) to warrant a respondent calling an FAA employee as an expert or allowing opinion or expert testimony of an FAA fact witness. At the public meeting, a private attorney speaking on behalf of EAA and the NTSB Bar Association and ATA echoed this need to call or cross-examine FAA expert or opinion witnesses.

ALPA states that the agency's concerns about FAA employees are "unpersuasive" and also urges the FAA to delete § 13.227. ALPA believes that only rarely would a respondent call an FAA employee and, on those rare occasions, it would be obvious that the employee is testifying "as an individual" and, thus, no confusion would arise. Moreover, ALPA contends that if the FAA "is truly concerned about any 'confusion' on this issue," the agency can include a statement that it is not bound by the unofficial testimony of an FAA employee called by a respondent.

The FAA disagrees with the statement by several commenters that there is no reason for this limitation. Several commenters acknowledge some validity in the FAA's position. AOPA agrees that the FAA should be able to restrict the use of its employees as experts for others. In AOPA's words, "This is a familiar restriction found in other Federal agencies to prevent the diversion of agency personnel from their assigned duties." NBAA recognizes that the "entire FAA ought not to be subjected to subpoenas to testify" in these cases but argues that witnesses with regulatory oversight of the respondent or relevant sections of the regulations should be compelled to testify.

ATA suggests that the simple solution is for the FAA to delete this section, positing that if the FAA's fear for its employees is justified, it is equally justified for respondents. ATA, NBAA, and NACA further urge the FAA to prompt OST to change the Departmental rule on expert and opinion testimony of employees. ATA and NACA suggest the FAA petition the Department for an exemption to the existing employee testimony regulation. ATA states that "DOT already has provided such an

exemption for enforcement proceedings brought by other government agencies." ATA cites 49 CFR 9.5(a), which pertains to certain U.S. Coast Guard proceedings brought against military personnel and requires that such military personnel have the same opportunity as the government to obtain witnesses. As ATA notes, this exemption is required by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (10 U.S.C. 846). The Department, therefore, was statutorily required to provide the narrow exemption that now exists. However, the exemption does not apply to civil penalty actions taken by the U.S. Coast Guard against private individuals or entities for regulatory violations. It applies only to actions taken by the Coast Guard against Coast Guard personnel (and therefore technically DOT employees) in court martial proceedings and before discharge boards. This limited exemption required by law does not provide a basis for a change in the Departmental rules or the rules of practice as recommended by ATA and NACA.

ALPA contends that § 9.5 of the Department's rules is not a barrier to FAA employee opinion or expert testimony on behalf of a respondent in civil penalty actions. ALPA reads that section to create a distinction between testimony that is "compelled by subpoena and not offered voluntarily by the witness," believing § 9.5(a) to deal only with "voluntary testimony by agency employees." ALPA reaches this conclusion by comparing § 9.5 with § 9.13 of the Department's rules. The FAA does not so read the regulations in 49 CFR part 9. Section 9.13 applies only to legal proceedings between private litigants; § 9.5 applies only to proceedings in which the United States is involved, such as civil penalty actions. The interests of the government in both types of proceedings are strikingly similar, as expressed in § 9.7 (the general rule regarding DOT employee testimony in private litigation). Moreover, § 9.5 is the only section that deals with employee testimony in proceedings in which the government is involved and that section does not differentiate between testimony compelled by subpoena or given voluntarily, unlike other sections of part 9. See § 9.9 and § 9.11. Thus, § 9.5, on its face, applies whether the employee's testimony is compelled or is given voluntarily in proceedings in which the United States or the Department are involved, either directly or indirectly.

The FAA continues to believe that the rule in question should not be deleted. It

accurately reflects a Departmental regulation that is outside the scope of this rulemaking and embodies a limitation recognized as wholly proper. The NTSB's decision in *Administrator v. Sims and McGhee*, 3 NTSB 672 (1977) is a case in point, cited by a private aviation attorney who commented on the NPRM. In that case, the NTSB upheld the exclusion of an FAA employee from testifying as an expert or opinion witness on behalf of pilots in an enforcement proceeding. The NTSB stated:

The Board has no reason to question the validity of regulations such as 49 CFR 9, which are within the authority of the issuing agency (DOT, in this instance) and the effect of which have generally been honored by the courts.

3 NTSB at 674-675 and n.13 (citing *Farrell v. Piedmont Aviation, Inc.*, 50 F.R.D. 385 (W.D.N.C. 1969), and *Craig v. Eastern Air Lines*, 40 F.R.D. 508 (E.D.N.Y., 1966), "wherein the courts refused to allow discovery of the opinion and conclusions of FAA employees"). The Board continued:

The apparent and, in our view, legitimate purpose of the regulation is to avert the conflict of interest inherent in a situation where a government employee is, in effect, serving two masters.

3 NTSB at 675 n.12. Beyond the general objection noted above, the commenters previously posed, and some continue to pose, specific objections to keeping this section in the rules of practice. The commenters argue that this sentence apparently limits cross-examination of an FAA employee's expert or opinion testimony. The commenters also argue that it creates an apparent disparity between the government and private parties because the rule does not similarly address the expert testimony of employees of private parties.

(1) *Cross-examination of an FAA expert or opinion witness.* Most commenters express general support for the FAA's effort to revise § 13.227 but some still express concerns regarding a party's ability to cross-examine an FAA expert or opinion witness. ATA believes that the rule still may prevent or restrict full and complete cross-examination of, or discovery directed to, an agency employee. To cure this perceived defect, ATA suggests that the rule include a sentence regarding the scope of cross-examination as it relates to direct or factual testimony. Two private attorneys also claim that the rule "prohibits" cross-examination of an FAA expert. Certainly, that sentence did not and does not reach that far.

On the other hand, ALPA does not read the rule as "imposing any limit on

cross-examination of a witness called by the FAA; rather, the rule is concerned only with the scope of the testimony that can be offered by an FAA employee called by the respondent." ALPA urges that any changes to the rule should make it clear that there is no limit on the normal scope of cross-examination, including the posing of opinion questions to an FAA witness in some circumstances.

After close review of the continued objections by commenters regarding effective cross-examination and the arguments presented in defense of their positions, the FAA is keeping this sentence but narrowing its scope even further. The FAA is revising that sentence by inserting the italicized language so the section reads as follows:

An employee of the agency may not be called as an expert or opinion witness for any party other than the agency in any proceeding governed by this subpart.

This change is intended to address concerns expressed by ATA and AOPA that this sentence, if unchanged, would continue to chill a respondent's cross-examination of an FAA employee who has been called by the agency as an expert or opinion witness. The FAA declines to adopt ATA's suggestion to insert additional language in the rule regarding the scope of cross-examination. The FAA believes that the administrative law judges have the discretion to determine what is necessary and permissible for full and complete cross-examination during discovery and any hearing. As amended, the FAA believes that § 13.227 clarifies that a respondent is able to engage in permissible cross-examination of the agency's expert or opinion witnesses. The FAA also believes that the revision addresses the recommendation of the Committee on Adjudication. Adj.Com.Rec. at 5 (March 8, 1990).

(2) *Disparity between government and private party expert or opinion witnesses.* The most common objection to the remaining sentence in § 13.227 is that the rule unfairly omits addressing employees of private parties, leaving the inference that no similar limitation applies to their testimony and the FAA, therefore, is free to call them as its expert witnesses. This objection is expressed by ATA, NBAA, NACA, Rocky Mountain Helicopters, NATA, and one private attorney. NATA recommends that the rule either should restrict both parties' use of experts or opinion witnesses or should reflect that any party may use the testimony of any party's expert. Although, as noted in the NPRM, it is not the FAA's practice to

use expert or opinion testimony of employees of an opposing party, these commenters urge either that the limitation in the rule be eliminated or that the rule be modified to apply equally to both parties to a proceeding.

The FAA is satisfied that the rule, as amended, and its purpose are sufficiently clear to preclude a construction that would either (1) exclude a private party's otherwise admissible evidence of an opinion previously given by an FAA employee outside of the adjudicatory proceeding or (2) prevent or limit otherwise proper cross-examination of opinions given by an FAA employee on direct examination as a witness for the agency. The first example does not involve an employee's testimony for a non-FAA party. As to the second, we know of no instance in which an administrative law judge has relied on either the FAA's rule or its Departmental counterpart to limit the scope of otherwise proper cross-examination of an employee's testimonial opinions. The FAA is confident that an administrative law judge will rule properly in such situations and will do so without reference to the limitation in § 13.227.

Notwithstanding the agency's belief that the limitation in the rule, as amended, is necessary and proper, it is equally clear that, to a significant segment of the aviation community, it appears to be one-sided in that it does not similarly limit FAA's use of an opposing party's employees as expert or opinion witnesses. While the FAA does not consider such a limitation to be necessary to achieve that result, it considers the evenhanded appearance of the rules to be important.

In addressing this concern, the FAA does not want to restrict the ability of a respondent to call experts or opinion witnesses to testify on the respondent's behalf or to somehow limit the testimony of an expert or opinion witness who appears for a respondent. Thus, the FAA instead is revising the title of § 13.227 and also inserting a limitation on the agency's ability to call experts employed by a party in a civil penalty action. The FAA is adding a sentence to § 13.227 that reads as follows:

An employee of a respondent may not be called by an agency attorney as an expert or opinion witness for the agency in any proceeding governed by this subpart to which the respondent is party.

The FAA believes that adding this provision responds to the primary concern of commenters who continue to object to § 13.227 because it still appears asymmetrical. Revised § 13.227 now

addresses only an FAA employee's obligation to appear as an expert or opinion witness and the agency's ability to choose experts or opinion witnesses. Because both sentences now speak only to "calling" an expert or opinion witness, and not in terms of "testifying," this section should not restrict an FAA employee's factual testimony or a party's ability to cross-examine an opposing expert or opinion witness.

In its comments to the NPRM, NACA states that the FAA should delete the entire section and "opinion testimony should be permitted" so as not to violate a "fundamental right of fairness." NACA did not further explain how that sentence, as it existed or as proposed, "prohibits" opinion testimony in civil penalty actions. Section 13.227 does not ban the use of experts or opinion witnesses, either on its face or implicitly, and a majority of the commenters do not view that sentence as prohibiting opinion testimony. The FAA believes that the revisions to § 13.227 in this document make it abundantly clear that expert or opinion testimony, offered by either party, is permitted by the rules of practice.

Rocky Mountain Helicopters states that the "Federal Rules of Civil Procedure clearly contemplate the use of opposing expert witnesses * * *" and believes that the FAA's rule impedes a respondent's ability to present his or her case and to confront and cross-examine witnesses. The FAA, however, does not believe that the rule could be read to prohibit the use of opposing experts in these proceedings or cross-examination of an FAA expert. In light of the FAA's revision of § 13.227, the FAA has addressed these concerns.

5. Written Arguments

Some previous commenters stated that § 13.231 of the rules of practice prevented a respondent from submitting written briefs in support of motions made during a hearing or posthearing briefs. While the agency noted its preference for oral argument and decisions in relatively simple or straightforward cases, previous commenters indicated a strong preference for written submissions, arguing that the FAA's rule adversely affected their ability to present their case to an administrative law judge.

To address these concerns, the FAA proposed to leave the decision to submit written briefs in the hands of the parties or the administrative law judge, if the law judge determined that written submissions are "necessary or required for resolution of the issues or the case." Most commenters express some opinion about the proposal; however, their

suggestions for additional changes vary and, in some cases, are inconsistent. Some commenters continue to believe that the agency is attempting to restrict the ability to file written briefs and urge further changes to the rule.

NATA has no specific comment on the proposal but believes that the rules before the proposal were too limiting. AOCI and AAEE advocate further expansion of the rule to give the administrative law judge the authority to "require" written arguments, or allow the parties to submit written arguments if they agree, where written arguments "would be of value" or "would be helpful" to resolve the issues or the case.

While noting that the proposal is a significant improvement, ALPA believes that the parties should have the "right" to file written briefs if they agree to do so and the administrative law judge should not have "veto power" over that decision. (ALPA suggests that the proposed rule be modified so that the parties could submit briefs even if the administrative law judge determines that they are not necessary or required. The rule, as proposed, would have given the parties that ability, in essence, to override the law judge's decision.) If the parties cannot agree, ALPA suggests that the decision be left to the administrative law judge, based on a determination that briefs are required or necessary.

AOPA urges that matters involving written arguments should be left to the administrative law judge's discretion, presumably unfettered, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to review on appeal for abuse of discretion. NBAA urges the FAA to clarify that the administrative law judge has the discretion to request written briefs. While the concurrence of both parties is preferable in NBAA's opinion, NBAA believes that the administrative law judge should decide whether "additional" submissions would benefit development of the record and one party's objection should not bar submission of written arguments.

ATA continues to object to any presumption in the rules against written argument and any requirement that respondents "give up" oral argument in order to submit a written argument. ATA suggests that respondents (and presumably the agency although ATA did not so state) should be allowed to file written briefs whenever the administrative law judge finds that doing so would be "reasonable."

These continuing objections to this section are not a universally held sentiment, however. The Committee on

Adjudication of the Administrative Conference recommends that the rules "permit the filing of posthearing briefs whenever, in the [administrative law judge's] view, the interests of justice so require." Adj.Com.Rec. at 5 (March 8, 1990) (emphasis added). NACA concurs with the Committee's recommendation, noting that the administrative law judges should be vested with the authority to control their dockets regarding the filing of posthearing briefs.

Only the Tobacco Institute focuses directly on the agency's concern that respondents who choose to represent themselves or appear without counsel in these actions may benefit from the preference for oral argument and oral decisions in relatively simple or straightforward civil penalty cases. The Tobacco Institute states that respondents in civil penalty proceedings should not be "burdened by unnecessary formalities—notably written submissions—where their cases do not involve complex disputes or extensive research." The Tobacco Institute also states that all parties should have the opportunity to offer written arguments if the parties desire or the administrative law judge believes it will advance resolution of the case. The Tobacco Institute states that the FAA's proposed changes recognize those interests. Also, so long as the procedures are not amended to require written arguments, the Tobacco Institute endorses the FAA's proposal.

In the NPRM, the agency asked commenters to discuss the costs, impacts, and benefits of requiring parties to submit written arguments in civil penalty cases. Only NBAA comments on this issue. Without significant elaboration, NBAA asserts that the benefits of submitting written arguments "far outweigh the costs" and the cost to the respondent, over which he or she has "significant control," is reasonable. NBAA dismisses any cost to the FAA as "probably not a significant variable within the agency's overall budget * * *."

Contrary to the assertions of several commenters, section 557(c) of the Administrative Procedure Act does not confer on the parties a "right" to file written argument before an initial decision is issued by an adjudicator. That section speaks only to a "reasonable opportunity" to submit for the adjudicator's consideration proposed findings and conclusions, exceptions to decisions, and supporting reasons before an initial decision is issued. Because section 557(c) does not mandate written arguments during a hearing or at the close of hearing, the

FAA will not require their submission in its rules.

Instead, the FAA is leaving the decision entirely in the hands of the administrative law judge. The FAA is amending § 13.231 to provide that the administrative law judge may request written briefs during a hearing or after a hearing when it is reasonable to do so. In addition, the FAA is deleting the phrase in the proposed rule that would allow the parties to submit written briefs pursuant to agreement of the parties despite an administrative law judge's determination that such written arguments are not required or necessary. The FAA also is amending § 13.231(c) to delete the phrase "instead of final oral argument," thus allowing a party to provide final oral argument and written posthearing briefs if the administrative law judge determines that both opportunities should be provided in a particular case.

NBAA believes that it is highly unlikely that an administrative law judge would ever "have to compel submission" of a written argument. This assertion may be true for sophisticated or represented parties who, in NBAA's opinion, would readily recognize that the administrative law judge's suggestion to submit a written brief indicates that the "person deciding their case wants some additional guidance." The agency is sensitive, however, to the potential effect of such a "suggestion" to respondents who are not familiar with an adjudicatory process or who are not represented by counsel in these proceedings. Precisely because NBAA opines that "as a matter of practical reality failure to respond to the trier's request [for written argument] is foolish," the issue should be highlighted here. To the extent that those parties who do not believe, or are not aware, that posthearing briefs would aid the administrative law judge in resolving their case, the FAA is confident that an administrative law judge also will recognize the issue and will not draw any adverse inference solely from a party's failure to submit a written argument.

6. Modification of Civil Penalty by an Administrative Law Judge

Previous commenters objected to a sentence in § 13.232(a) that required an administrative law judge to support in an initial decision a reduction of the civil penalty sought by the agency for an alleged violation. Despite the provision in the rules squarely placing the burden of proof on the agency, this sentence was criticized as improperly shifting the burden of justifying a civil penalty from the agency attorney to the

administrative law judge. The agency noted that this requirement was not unique to the FAA, and that the sentence in § 13.232(a) was patterned after decisions by the NTSB. Indeed, the NTSB requires its administrative law judges to show a "clear and compelling" basis for reduction of a proposed sanction in certificate actions, a much higher standard than that contained in § 13.232(a). *Muzquiz v. NTSB*, 2 NTSB 1474 (1975).

According to NBAA, the *Muzquiz* doctrine provides a reasonable standard to govern an administrative law judge's exercise of the power to review the proposed penalty developed by the agency. In NBAA's words, "Nothing should be added in Part 13." Several commenters criticize the *Muzquiz* decision, and implicitly the agency's reliance on that decision, arguing that the NTSB should overrule its 1975 decision. Whether the NTSB ultimately overrules *Muzquiz* is not relevant here in light of the agency's proposed revision to § 13.232(a).

The agency proposed several amendments to the rules of practice to address the commenters' concerns. ATA supports the proposals in the NPRM, stating that the proposals are "useful improvements" to the rules of practice. AOCI and AAEE also support the proposals as drafted, noting the additional support for these proposals in Professor Fallon's report.

To the extent that the commenters claim that additional burdens had been placed on the administrative law judge by the previous rule, the FAA addressed those concerns in the proposed amendments. First, the FAA proposed to delete the sentence in § 13.232(a) regarding explanation of any reduction in the amount of civil penalty. ALPA supports the proposal to delete this sentence from § 13.232(a). AOPA also concurs in the proposed deletion of this sentence, stating that the matter then will rest "where it best should be," with the administrative law judge and the Administrator on appeal.

Although it was raised as a comment on the issue of modification of a proposed civil penalty, the Tobacco Institute suggests that the FAA provide criteria or "standards placed on the public record" to guide the agency's and the administrative law judges' decisions on penalty levels. As noted by the Tobacco Institute, the FAA addressed that suggestion in its disposition of comments submitted on the final rule and will not repeat that discussion here. 54 FR at 11918-11919; March 22, 1989. The FAA believes that the revised rule addresses the Tobacco Institute's desire

to preserve the discretion of the administrative law judge "to levy a sanction appropriate to facts that emerge at a hearing." Not all commenters agree with the Tobacco Institute, however. For example, NBAA states that "The persons charged with the day-to-day administration of these cases have to be allowed * * * to exercise their best judgment as to what sanction is appropriate."

Second, the FAA proposed, conforming with the recommendations by Professor Fallon and the Committee on Adjudication, to modify the second sentence in § 13.232(a) to require an administrative law judge to include in an initial decision a discussion of the "amount of any civil penalty found appropriate by the administrative law judge."

Although other commenters seem to disagree, ALPA claims that "no one" is suggesting that an administrative law judge should not explain a reduction of a proposed civil penalty. ALPA advocates an additional requirement to explain a "refusal" to reduce a proposed penalty where such reduction is sought by the respondent. In ALPA's words, the administrative law judge should explain "any decision" regarding a proposed penalty if that is an issue in the case. The Tobacco Institute states that the "better approach" is evidenced by the proposed amendment to apply the same requirement to decisions that modify or affirm the agency's proposed penalty. The agency's proposed amendment to § 13.232(a) contemplates precisely what ALPA and the Tobacco Institute suggest ought to be done in each case. To the extent that ALPA objects to the use of the terms "affirm, modify, or reverse" as they refer to an initial decision on proposed civil penalties by an administrative law judge, the FAA agrees with ALPA's concern and is modifying that sentence, as well as other sections of the rules that contained those terms, as discussed previously.

AOPA objects to adding the proposed language to § 13.232(a), believing it to be an attempt to insert the same restriction in different language in a different place in the rule. Nevertheless, AOPA admits that the interpretation of this sentence, presumably by the administrative law judge and the Administrator on appeal in the context of a particular case, will determine whether this is an attempt to restrict the administrative law judge in favor of the agency. The FAA is confident that an administrative or judicial adjudicator would not read beyond the plain language of the rule to limit or expand that language,

particularly in light of the history and discussion surrounding this provision.

The proposed changes merely mirror what already is required of an administrative law judge pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. Pursuant to section 557(c), an administrative law judge must include a statement of "findings and conclusions, and the reasons or basis therefor, on all material issues of fact, law, or discretion presented on the record * * *." (Emphasis added.) As AOPA has so aptly noted, the agency's first proposed change will preserve the administrative law judge's discretion regarding sanction, as it currently is set forth in the Administrative Procedure Act. Thus, a discussion of any sanction found appropriate by the administrative law judge in a particular case should be discussed in the decision so as to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act. Moreover, the agency stated in the NPRM, and repeats here, that a detailed or elaborate articulation may not be necessary to satisfy the requirement in section 557(c). The adjudicators in these actions, on a case-by-case basis, can determine how best to fulfill their obligations under section 557(c) of the Administrative Procedure Act by providing whatever level of discussion they deem appropriate.

In light of the significant support in the comments for the agency's proposal, the agency is adopting several of the proposed changes to § 13.232(a). The agency is deleting the fourth sentence in § 13.232(a), eliminating any specific requirement for an administrative law judge to explain a reduction in a civil penalty proposed in the agency's complaint. Adj.Com.Rec. at 5 (March 8, 1990). Also, after analysis of the comments and review of the recommendation by the Committee on Adjudication and Professor Fallon, the FAA is inserting the phrase "the amount of any civil penalty found appropriate by the administrative law judge" in the second sentence of § 13.232(a).

7. Compromise of penalties

The FAA solicited comment on the agency's policy against civil penalty compromises that result in no formal finding of violation. In the NPRM, the FAA asked a series of detailed questions to aid its understanding of the commenters' positions on the existing compromise policy and assist in the formulation of possible changes to that policy. The agency announced publicly, both in the NPRM and at the public meeting, "somewhat of a retreat" in the way it had construed the statute, which had contributed to its policy of insisting on a finding of violation in all cases in

which payment was received. The agency noted that the FAA could proceed to a final rule and need not await a "legislative correction" to the statute if the FAA concluded, as a matter of policy, that compromises without findings are an appropriate resolution of some cases. The Adjudication Committee of the Administrative Conference had recommended just such a review and reconsideration of the statute and legislative history pending legislative clarification. Adj.Com.Rec. at 4 (March 8, 1990).

Nearly every commenter expresses an opinion on the issue of compromising civil penalty actions without a finding of violation. Some commenters criticize the agency even for having solicited comment on the issue. Despite these commenters' protestations, the comments have been useful to the agency's review and development of an appropriate compromise policy.

a. Policy Change Versus Rule Amendment

AOCI and AAAE believe that the rules of practice "must reflect the ability to compromise the proposed penalty without the admission of a violation * * *." Nevertheless, AOCI and AAAE state that the regulations should not circumscribe the types of cases that could be compromised to promote administrative efficiency and the interests of justice. Instead, the agency should determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether and when it is appropriate to compromise a civil penalty case. AOCI and AAAE suggest that § 13.16 be amended to show that a compromise agreement is permitted if it "is not contrary to the public interest." In the NPRM, the FAA had proposed language that compromise would be permitted if "such an agreement is in the public interest." AOCI and AAAE believe that their language would give the FAA greater flexibility yet ensure that the public interest is not adversely affected.

NATA states that the rules of practice should be amended to permit the FAA to consider a history of prior violations "only" when a future complaint is the result of a "repeated alleged violation of the same rule." (It is not clear whether NATA considers a "history of prior violations" to include only violations resulting from adjudication or alleged violations that may be reflected in a compromise agreement.) APA advocates a return to "the settlement practice prior to the adoption" of the program and believes that the rules should be amended to reflect that payment of a

civil penalty "prior to an administrative hearing" is not an admission of the allegations or a formal finding of violation.

AOPA views the issue as a matter of policy but does suggest that criteria could be established and articulated in Order 2150.3A. AOPA urges the FAA to amend its policy so that it is within the discretion of the agency in a particular case to settle a civil penalty "with or without a finding of violation." As to criteria to distinguish cases that would be appropriate for compromise, AOPA suggests that a "finding should be required in the more egregious cases and for repeat offenders and where the agency, in its prosecutorial discretion, finds individual circumstances where the public interest requires a finding." AOPA does not further define "egregious cases" or cases where the "public interest requires" a finding, but suggests that distinctions articulated in Order 2150.3A between administrative action and legal enforcement action would be helpful. (The FAA notes, however, that the distinctions in Order 2150.3A currently guide the discretion vested in FAA inspectors to distinguish cases that are not appropriate for legal enforcement action, not cases where that determination has been made.)

On the other hand, some commenters consider this issue solely a matter of policy. RAA urges the FAA to adopt a policy of compromises without issuing an order that contains a finding of violation. RAA states that the FAA could refuse to compromise if, in the belief of the FAA attorney, an alleged violator views the payment of civil penalties as a "cost of doing business." RAA believes a compromise policy would benefit the FAA by eliminating cases that are "legally unfounded, poorly substantiated, or politically motivated * * * without gross embarrassment to the agency." (Where those factors are relevant, however, they are considered more appropriate to a decision declining to prosecute the action in the first instance.) NBAA regards the issue of compromise as a matter of development and use of "local judgment" and "careful, thoughtful actions" by those persons familiar with the specific case. NBAA believes that a finding of violation "has not historically been found to be a legally mandated predicate to the compromise of civil penalty cases * * *" and urges the FAA to eliminate any distinction in compromise policy between civil penalty cases that exceed \$50,000 and those that fall below that amount.

NACA believes that a "flexible approach to settlement" should be

followed by the FAA. NACA suggests that the agency refuse to compromise in cases that show a "lack of compliance disposition on the part of the violator or the matter is so egregious that the violator should certainly have known in advance he was violating" the regulations. ATA vigorously supports a flexible compromise policy and believes the FAA should retain the discretion to "decline settlements with, or insist on substantial settlement amounts from, recidivist respondents."

ALPA believes it is neither "necessary or desirable" to articulate or codify a comprehensive set of criteria to select cases in which compromise would be acceptable or appropriate. Instead, the agency should exercise its discretion but could compromise where a violation is minor or unintentional, where problems of proof exist in the case, or where the respondent has an "excellent" record of compliance. While Rocky Mountain Helicopters supports the agency's willingness to compromise civil penalty cases, it states that the rules of practice should govern only procedural aspects of the enforcement process and should not limit either the prosecutor or the adjudicator. This opinion leads Rocky Mountain Helicopters to conclude that if the "prosecutor insists upon a finding of violation, clearly that fits within the prosecutor's discretion."

b. Use of Compromised Civil Penalties

An issue of primary concern to most commenters is any future use of a compromise agreement by the agency or the admissibility of a compromise agreement in future litigation. Most commenters recognize the propriety of the agency's consideration of a prior compromise agreement, although the commenters do not necessarily agree on the extent of the agency's consideration of such agreements.

AOCI and AAAE "recognize the FAA's enforcement interest in using a respondent's regulatory history" to determine appropriate action in future cases. Thus, AOCI and AAAE believe that the FAA should have the ability to consider past compromises in deciding whether to initiate or to compromise future enforcement actions. ALPA believes it is appropriate for the agency to refuse to compromise an action without insisting on a finding of violation where there has been a previous compromise with the same respondent for a similar violation. Nevertheless, ALPA states that compromise agreements should not be "available for use in subsequent cases before the FAA, DOT, NTSB, or elsewhere."

NBAA suggests that the FAA turn to "history" for guidance regarding the use of civil penalty compromises. NBAA notes that "There are no easy answers other than the judicious administration of the program * * *" and discourages establishment of rules that would inhibit careful analysis of a particular case. NBAA comments that an "enforcement folder full of compromise agreements usually results" in a significantly higher penalty on the next case; however, an administrative law judge would scrutinize the facts "in a previous single compromised case" before using a document that does not "admit guilt as a basis for a severe subsequent penalty." It seems from these comments that NBAA would not object to the agency's use of previous, similar compromised civil penalty actions to analyze a case and determine an appropriate sanction or the propriety of compromise for a similar violation.

While not requesting expunction of records related to compromises, RAA suggests that records of compromises should not reflect an admission of guilt. Thus, the FAA would have the option of considering an alleged violator's compliance history in subsequent proceedings. In AOPA's view, only "findings" should be made a matter of record to be considered in the case of future alleged violations. AOPA also advocates expunction of certain enforcement and incident information from an airman's record after an appropriate time. In this light, AOPA disagrees with the current practice of including compromised civil penalties as a matter of record and considering them to decide appropriate action for future violations. On the issue of accountability, AOPA states that if an alleged violation is so serious, it should be a matter of record for consideration in a future enforcement action. However, cases that are not "so serious," could be compromised and should not be included as a matter of record or used to determine future enforcement action. AOPA suggests that criteria should be established and reflected in Order 2150.3A to define these cases.

NATA is concerned about the use of a compromise agreement in a future, unrelated case and suggests that a finding of a prior, unrelated violation is irrelevant unless it is used to show "overall lack of qualification" that justifies certificate action under section 609 of the Federal Aviation Act. One private attorney suggests that the agency "should not be allowed to consider * * * any previous violation history in subsequent civil penalty

actions." This commenter also states that payment of a fine should not be construed as an "admission of guilt" in subsequent civil penalty actions.

With regard to the agency's concern about the "deterrent effect" of a compromise and the public interest in accountability, APA simplifies the choice by suggesting that the FAA initiate certificate action against a violator instead of a civil penalty action for violations of safety regulations. APA claims that the agency's concerns on these issues lack substance in light of the dichotomy that exists for civil penalty actions over \$50,000 and those that are at or below that amount. Although this disparity exists, it is the result of a jurisdictional limit in the enabling legislation.

c. Compromise System

As to the mechanics of compromising a civil penalty action, RAA and ALPA suggest that compromise should be available at any stage in the proceedings. Also, ALPA advocates issuance of a document entitled "settlement agreement" that contains an "agreed summary" of the alleged violations, a statement that the agency will accept a specified civil penalty as full settlement, and a statement that the respondent agrees to pay the civil penalty without admitting the alleged violations.

ATA offers a suggested system for compromise: (1) Criteria contained in Order 2150.3A to assist in determination of an appropriate sanction should be used to guide the agency's discretion; (2) regional attorneys should be trained to apply the criteria consistently and be vested with the authority to compromise; (3) FAA headquarters personnel should monitor the amounts and types of compromise to ensure reasonable consistency; (4) respondents should be able to "address concerns" about the compromise of individual cases to FAA headquarters to promote consistency; (5) a record of past compromises could be used by the FAA to guide all aspects of prosecutorial discretion but should not be admissible in enforcement "trials" for any purpose. ATA disagrees with DOT's practice of construing settlements as "findings" and urges the FAA not to adopt a similar practice.

Upon consideration of all the comments made on this issue, the FAA has determined to change its general policy on compromises to permit settlements without admissions or formal findings of guilt and to amend the rules to reflect this change.

It may be helpful to a discussion of the compromise issue to first distinguish

between an "admission" of violation and a "finding" of violation. Neither the existing rules nor agency policy requires persons agreeing to pay a civil penalty to "admit" the violations alleged in a notice of proposed, or order assessing, civil penalty. However, a failure to contest a proposed civil penalty results in the issuance of an order assessing civil penalty. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, an "order" is a final agency disposition formulated by the process of adjudication. 5 U.S.C. 551. Therefore, an order ordinarily represents an agency's "findings" in a matter.

As discussed in the NPRM, the main public interests in making such findings in enforcement cases is to establish accountability and a violation history admissible in evidence in the event of future enforcement actions against the same person. It can be inferred from the public comments, on the other hand, that there is a substantial willingness to pay civil penalties without contest if no finding of violation is made. Settlement of cases without costly adjudication can, if otherwise appropriate, also serve the public interest. The FAA concludes that these competing public interests in adjudication and in settlement, by their nature, can best be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in the sound exercise of prosecutorial discretion, a proposition urged by several commenters.

This change in agency policy to permit the exercise of such discretion does not require a change to the rules of procedure in civil penalty cases. However, § 13.16(p) and definition of "order assessing civil penalty" are being amended in order to assure full awareness of the change, to allow for documentation of "no finding" compromises in orders assessing civil penalty, and to assure that orders in such cases may not be used by the agency as evidence of a prior violation in civil penalty or certificate action proceedings.

The amendment only permits such a compromise settlement. It does not require it or specify conditions for its acceptability. The FAA is persuaded by the comments that some case-by-case flexibility is needed here and agrees that prosecutorial discretion should not be circumscribed by regulation. Contemporaneously with the issuance of these amendments, FAA attorneys have been advised that they are authorized to enter into civil penalty compromise settlements with no findings where they determine such settlement to be consistent with the public interest. In making such determinations, they will consider violation history as well as any other relevant factors. For example,

public policy considerations would generally favor settlements without findings for inadvertent first-time violations, and disfavor such settlements where the violations were deliberate or were repetitive of, or substantially related to, violations previously adjudicated or settled, with or without a finding. In addition, the agency may, from time to time, issue policy guidance on this issue, where the agency determines that the public interest is served by insisting on findings in a certain category or type of case. But again, no inflexible criteria are being established at this time. The FAA intends to closely monitor case dispositions to evaluate continuously the need for any national policy guidance in this area.

8. Conforming Amendments and Editorial Changes

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed several conforming amendments or editorial changes to ensure that the proposed changes to the specific rules of practice raised in the NPRM were implemented effectively and efficiently. The commenters generally do not address those conforming and technical amendments, although several commenters suggest alternative solutions that the agency reviewed and adopts in certain cases.

No commenter objects to the FAA's proposed revision of the authority citation for part 13 and § 13.16(a)(1) to reflect accurately the agency's statutory authority in certain matters. To the extent that the proposed changes to the authority citation are neither addressed nor opposed by the commenters, the agency is adopting the amendments as proposed. Thus, the authority citation and the initiation procedures will reflect the agency's statutory authority in two cases: (1) The obligations and abilities of the FAA under the Federal Aviation Administration Drug Enforcement Assistance Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690) and (2) the statutory maximum civil penalty of \$10,000 applicable to any person who boards or attempts to board an aircraft in air transportation or intrastate air transportation with a concealed deadly or dangerous weapon on or about his or her person that would be accessible in flight. The FAA also is amending § 13.15(a)(1) so that it will be consistent with its counterpart in § 13.16(a)(1).

Related to the issue of statutory authority, the Tobacco Institute comments that § 13.15(a)(2) and § 13.16(a)(2) do not accurately reflect the provisions of section 404(d) of the Federal Aviation Act. The Tobacco

Institute states that "[t]o the extent that the rules of practice purport to allow the FAA to assess penalties greater than \$1000 for violations of the Act's smoking ban, they exceed FAA's statutory authority." The Tobacco Institute recommends that the FAA revise § 13.15(a)(2) and § 13.16(a)(2) to clarify that the maximum civil penalty for a violation of section 404(d)(1) (the "smoking ban") is \$1000 and the maximum civil penalty for a violation of section 404(d)(2) (the prohibition against tampering with a lavatory smoke alarm) is \$2000. The FAA agrees with the Tobacco Institute that a revision will clarify those sections to accurately reflect the agency's statutory authority and, thus, is revising § 13.15(a)(2) and § 13.16(a)(2) to state that the maximum civil penalty for an alleged violation of that section is specified in the Federal Aviation Act.

So that the EAJA regulations promulgated by the agency conform to the changes adopted herein to the rules of practice, the FAA is amending § 14.05(e) of part 14. That section states the "Fees may be awarded only for work performed after the issuance of an Order of Civil Penalty." The FAA is substituting the word "complaint" for the italicized phrase to ensure that the EAJA regulations use the same terminology as is used in the rules of practice to which they refer.

AOI and AAAE note two typographical errors in two of the agency's proposed revisions. In § 13.218(f)(1), AOI and AAAE believe that the phrase "10 days of service" should read "10 days after service * * *". Although the word "of" appeared in the original sentence as promulgated in August 1988, the FAA is adopting the suggested revision so the sentence in that section will conform to other sections that contain the same phrase. AOI and AAAE also identify an error in § 13.218(f)(2)(ii) in which the proposed language states "terminates the proceedings with a hearing * * *". AOI and AAAE correctly note that the italicized word should be "without" and the agency is adopting the recommendation to change that section.

9. Application of the Amendments to Pending and Concluded Civil Penalty Actions

In the summary preceding the preamble to the NPRM, the FAA indicated its willingness to consider applying changes to the rules of practice to pending civil penalty actions, "where appropriate." 55 FR 7980; March 6, 1990. During the public meeting, the agency solicited comments on whether and to what extent any changes to the rules

should be applied to cases already initiated, including cases that have been resolved. Representatives of ATA, American Airlines, and Alaska Airlines spoke in response to this suggestion. Meeting Transcript at 21-22, 26, 39-40, 50-53, 66 (March 12, 1990).

Written comments were submitted by ATA, NACA, and American Airlines. ATA suggests several options to deal with cases currently in some phase of the administrative civil penalty process. Although first raised in ATA's discussion of changing the designation "order of civil penalty" to "complaint," ATA asserts that the following mechanism should be applied to all civil penalty actions under the program for all changes adopted by the FAA in this final rule.

ATA recommends the following mechanism: (1) The FAA should file amended complaints in all pending cases that have not reached trial; (2) the FAA should reopen all cases in which a respondent did not request a hearing after receiving an order of civil penalty so that the respondent has another opportunity to request a hearing; and, (3) in any case in which a trial has occurred, the case should be remanded for a new trial. ATA asserts that its proposed "remedy" would not impose substantial burdens because so few cases have been tried.

NACA suggests that the change from "order of civil penalty" to "complaint" should "embrace all of the cases that have been handled under the final rule since its adoption." Without discussing the benefits or burdens of the suggestion, NACA states that the respondent should be offered the choice to reopen a civil penalty case. At the public meeting, the representative of American Airlines recognized "the burden on the system that would happen if all cases had to be reopened." In its written comments, American Airlines recommends that the rules changes should apply to all cases in which a complaint has been filed but the case has not been litigated. American does not recommend the re-opening of all litigated or resolved cases, however. American suggests that litigated cases should be retried only if by applying the new rules the result could be different. Each litigant * * * should be given the opportunity to request a new hearing under the new procedures if the litigant can show that the result could be affected by evidence that was excluded under the old rules. If the litigant cannot meet its burden, then no new hearing need be granted.

American adds that any change in the agency's policy concerning the compromise of cases must apply to all pending cases.

Although the effective date of the final rule is stayed until publication of a final rule on the NPRM issued today, the FAA intends to apply all rule changes, and its change in policy with respect to compromises, prospectively to all pending cases, no matter where a case is in the process. For example, all pending cases already initiated by a notice of proposed civil penalty but which have not proceeded to an order of civil penalty (complaint), will receive the full effect of these rule changes. That means that such cases may be resolved by the payment of a civil penalty and without a formal finding of violation, under some circumstances in the discretion of the agency. That also means that should the case proceed, the agency will issue a complaint in that case, instead of an order of civil penalty. Similarly, all cases in which hearings have not yet been held will be adjudicated before an administrative law judge, and the Administrator on an appeal, if necessary, under the rules announced in this document.

The agency will not seek to amend previously-issued orders of civil penalty in pending cases simply to redenominate them as complaints. First, orders of civil penalty have been issued in over 665 cases as of the end of March 1990. In these cases, a hearing has been held, scheduled, or will be scheduled. Whatever confusion that may have been experienced by a respondent upon receipt of an order of civil penalty will have diminished at the hearing, if not sooner. The administrative burden on the agency would be substantial, without a corresponding benefit to respondents in those cases.

The agency agrees with American's suggestion in concept. The Administrator will entertain requests to remand cases pending before the Administrator on appeal from an initial decision, where the respondent demonstrates that the change in the rules of practice adopted herein would likely have affected the administrative law judge's initial decision. Similarly, the Administrator will entertain requests for reconsideration of any decision and order issued by him, on the basis that the change in the rules of practice would likely have affected the outcome of the case. Respondent must provide a particularized showing, citing the rule change (or changes) and its relevance to the findings and conclusions reached by the administrative law judge or the Administrator.

Except as indicated above, the agency does not intend to re-open cases already closed through an order assessing civil

penalty, whether or not a case was resolved before hearing or after hearing. As of March 31, 1990, over 1,800 cases had already been resolved by the issuance of an order assessing civil penalty.

The agency's change in compromise policy announced in this document, which permits a compromise without a finding of violation, will be applicable to any pending case, wherever in the process. This policy change will apply also to all cases that have been resolved by issuance of an order assessing civil penalty but in which the 60-day period for appeal or payment of the civil penalty has not yet expired. Although the agency will not entertain requests to re-open closed cases for the purpose of considering a compromise without a finding, the agency will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether and how to use a previously-issued order assessing civil penalty in any future case.

10. Comments Beyond the Scope of the NPRM

Many of the commenters discuss general issues regarding the agency's compliance and enforcement program or policy matters in substantive regulatory areas, or note objections to other rules of practice and procedures not discussed in the NPRM. The agency is bound by the scope of its previous notice and certain policy matters clearly are outside the purview of rulemaking. The FAA is including a discussion of issues raised by the commenters in this rulemaking that are beyond the scope of this rulemaking in the NPRM published concurrently in today's *Federal Register*. Other issues that are beyond the scope of the notice issued in February 1990, because they are matters of policy or comments on the enforcement program generally, are discussed below.

a. Termination of or Opposition to the Program

Several commenters oppose the program as a general matter and advocate termination of the program by the agency or by Congress. Some commenters oppose the program as it stands now and urge the FAA to "go back and start over." Related to this issue is the desire of a few commenters for the agency to begin anew and issue an NPRM that subjects the entire rule issued in August 1988 to notice and comment. As stated previously, the FAA has republished the initiation procedures in § 13.16 and the rules of practice in subpart G of part 13 for comment by interested persons.

Three commenters (AOCL and AAE, Rocky Mountain Helicopters) also express their belief that the program

may not have been needed or necessary, although not all commenters agree. ALPA and NBAA concur in the need for an administrative procedure for these cases. Indeed, NBAA states that "the past system of waiting interminably for resolution of these cases in federal district court was unacceptable."

Several commenters either state or infer that the rules of practice "will terminate" if the FAA's civil penalty authority is not extended by Congress on or before April 30, 1990. Although stayed temporarily pursuant to the court's order, the rules of practice will survive and apply to cases where Congress has provided the FAA with separate authority to assess civil penalties administratively. As part of the Federal Aviation Administration Drug Enforcement Assistance Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690), Congress included administrative civil penalty authority in the case of aircraft registration and recordation violations related to drug trafficking. This civil penalty assessment authority is identical to the authority under the "Demonstration Program," except that it is permanent. 49 U.S.C. 1471(a)(3). In addition, civil penalty assessments under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1809), like those under the Drug Enforcement Assistance Act, would continue to be subject to the same rules of practice at issue, even should the authority under section 905 of the Federal Aviation Act sunset on April 30, 1990. Letter from Gregory S. Walden, Chief Counsel, to Chairman Oberstar at 1-2 (November 11, 1989).

b. Transfer to the NTSB

At the Subcommittee hearing in November 1989, the FAA agreed to consider the issue of which forum should adjudicate the FAA's civil penalty actions. Many commenters who previously expressed no opinion on the subject now have joined the debate in favor of transferring adjudicatory jurisdiction over civil penalty actions to the NTSB. Many commenters express support for vesting adjudication of civil penalty cases in the NTSB.

Many commenters state their desire for the FAA to transfer authority to adjudicate civil penalties to the NTSB. Some commenters suggest that the FAA "assist" in transferring its authority under the statute to the NTSB. Several commenters also go so far as to suggest that it is within the FAA's power to transfer adjudication of civil penalties to the NTSB. It obviously is not, as other commenters recognize. AOPA remarks that it "may be argued that [transfer to the NTSB] will require legislation and

coordination with the NTSB." ALPA states that the issue "would have to be addressed in legislation" and APA repeats that it would require "congressional vesting of adjudicatory power to the NTSB in civil penalty cases." NBAA and AOPA criticize the FAA for failing to invite comment in the NPRM on the transfer of civil penalty adjudicatory functions to the NTSB. However, in one commenter's words, the issue is "outside the scope of the present rulemaking." It is beyond the agency's authority to transfer its adjudicatory functions by rulemaking or any other administrative mechanism. Simply stated, the FAA cannot expand unilaterally the NTSB's statutory jurisdiction to review or adjudicate FAA enforcement actions. Thus, it matters little whether this issue was raised by the agency in its NPRM. Congress, not the FAA or the NTSB, ultimately must resolve the debate.

c. Ability of the FAA Decisionmaker to Raise New Issues on Appeal

NACA, American Airlines, and one private attorney, object to the current language of § 13.233(j)(1), which permits the FAA decisionmaker to raise any issue, *sua sponte*, that is required for proper disposition of the proceedings. Other commenters, including AOPA and the California Aviation Council, raised this issue previously in comments to the final rule issued in August 1988. Although the rule provides that the FAA decisionmaker will give the parties a reasonable opportunity to submit arguments on a new issue before making any decision on appeal, these commenters object to the fact that the rule does not allow the respondent an opportunity to submit evidence and develop the record with respect to the "new" issue raised by the decisionmaker on appeal. In addition, NACA asserts that the rule violates section 554(b)(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which requires that persons entitled to notice of an agency hearing shall be timely informed of the matters of fact and law asserted.

For a few commenters, this perception persists although § 13.233(j)(1) was neither intended nor has it been used to allow the Administrator to consider matters outside the record developed before the administrative law judge. Section 556(e) and section 557(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act restrain a decisionmaker, both at the hearing and appellate level, from considering matters outside the record. This provision provided the Administrator with the latitude only to consider issues, developed during an administrative

proceeding and contained in the record, that may not have been raised or relied upon by the parties in their appellate arguments, but which could be dispositive of the appeal before the decisionmaker. As such, the rule applied equally to respondents and the agency and did not operate, either explicitly or implicitly, to allow the Administrator to "rectify mistakes and oversights" by agency attorneys at the hearing, as one commenter has asserted.

The FAA believes that the rules of practice, as currently written, adequately protect the parties. The Administrator, as the FAA decisionmaker, already has the authority to remand a case "for any proceedings that the FAA decisionmaker determines may be necessary" pursuant to § 13.233(j). The agency is confident that the Administrator will exercise this authority in all appropriate cases, including those rare occasions where a "new" issue raised on appeal requires consideration of additional evidence or testimony.

However, in order to remove any doubt on this point and to assuage the concerns of these commenters, the agency is adding new language to § 13.233(j)(1), which makes clear that if an issue raised on the FAA decisionmaker's own initiative requires consideration of additional evidence or testimony, the FAA decisionmaker will remand the case to the administrative law judge for further proceedings and an initial decision related to that issue. This change will ensure that the parties are given an opportunity to develop a full evidentiary record on all such issues.

A remand for further evidence or testimony normally will not be required where the "new" issue raised is purely a legal one, or where the issue was sufficiently addressed at the hearing below but was not covered in the briefs on appeal, and § 13.233(j)(1) now so states. In such cases, the notice requirement of the Administrative Procedure Act will be met by providing the parties with an opportunity to submit written arguments to the Administrator. Of course, the Administrator's determination as to whether a remand is required under the revised rule would be subject to judicial review in a U.S. court of appeals if the agency's final decision is appealed.

d. Equal Access to Justice Act

Two commenters continue to complain that the civil penalty program and the rules of practice are inadequate because they fail to address the applicability of EAJA to the agency's civil penalty cases. As part of a

comparison of the FAA and NTSB rules, one commenter notes that EAJA regulations are "conspicuously absent in the current civil penalty rules." The commenter believes that this "omission" reflects that the civil penalty rules "are still heavily one-sided in favor of the FAA and replete with provisions unfavorable to any unfortunate respondent subject to them."

The FAA issued an NPRM, requesting comment on proposed EAJA regulations, on July 10, 1989. 54 FR 29978; July 17, 1989. Four comments were received on the NPRM and considered by the agency before promulgation of an interim final rule. The FAA issued an interim final rule implementing EAJA regulations on October 27, 1989. 54 FR 46196; November 1, 1989. The interim final rule is effective until such time as the Department-wide EAJA regulations are updated and incorporate the civil penalty adjudications before the agency. The agency's EAJA regulations are contained in Part 14 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.

e. Comments on Substantive Areas of Regulation and the Agency's Compliance and Enforcement Program

Several entities and individuals used the opportunity for comment on the NPRM to espouse positions on issues of interest to them. Most of these issues, although superficially related to the rules of practice, clearly are beyond the scope of this rulemaking.

For example, NATA recommends several modifications to "enhance the compliance process" and promote an operator's understanding of the agency's compliance and enforcement program. NATA and the joint comments of AOCI and AAAE both express concern about how airport operator security violations are handled by the FAA, and specifically address the issue of an airport operator's potential liability for violations committed by tenants at the airport. At the public meeting, Alaska Airlines and NBAA discussed the current "environment" and "perspectives" of certain members of the aviation community with respect to a compliance and enforcement program. Both commenters stress the desire for emphasis on "voluntary compliance" with the FAA's safety regulations in any enforcement program. Last, ATA states that the civil penalty program will not work "until the agency creates sensible enforcement priorities." ATA suggests that the FAA adopt a leadership role in developing a consensus on the "appropriate uses" of the civil penalty program. Like Alaska Airlines, ATA objects to the agency's policy regarding FAA tests conducted to determine an air

carrier's detection of simulated weapons at carrier screening checkpoints and any enforcement actions that arise from a carrier's failure to detect a simulated weapon.

Many of these comments express concerns that should be raised in other agency rulemaking actions. Some comments express concern about broad substantive areas that are more appropriately addressed by the agency in the normal course as a matter of policy than rulemaking. There are more appropriate and more efficient avenues for consideration of these issues than the FAA's NPRM on the rules of practice in civil penalty proceedings. Because these issues are beyond the scope of the NPRM, both technically and practically, they cannot and should not be addressed in this rulemaking, which is intended only to make specific changes to procedural rules of practice.

f. Comments on Sections of the Rules not Raised in the NPRM

A few commenters object to other sections of the rules that were not raised in the NPRM issued in February 1990. Although several of those objections have merit, they are beyond the scope of this rulemaking. Nevertheless, the agency is requesting comment on those issues in the NPRM published in a separate part of today's Federal Register. As such, the FAA is not amending the rules of practice as suggested by the commenters because other interested persons did not have an opportunity to review the relevant sections and any proposed revisions or discussion submitted by the commenters. While the FAA is not including a specific proposal on several of these issues in the NPRM, the agency is soliciting comment on the issues from interested parties to expedite the rulemaking.

Regulatory Evaluation

The FAA has determined that this final rule is not a major rule under the criteria of Executive Order 12291; thus, the FAA is not required to prepare a Regulatory Impact Analysis under either the Executive Order or the Regulatory Policies and Procedures of the Department of Transportation (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979).

In nonmajor rulemaking actions, the DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures require the FAA to prepare a regulatory evaluation, analyzing the economic consequences of proposed regulations and quantifying, to the extent practicable, the estimated costs and anticipated benefits and impacts of regulations. The FAA believes that the

changes to the rules of practice adopted in this document, aimed primarily at the appearance of fairness, do not in any economic terms significantly alter the basic process by which civil penalties not exceeding \$50,000 are adjudicated within the agency. Rather, these changes address only those sections of the rules of practice that have been the subject of criticism and specific comment by the aviation industry. For example, the amended sections of the rules of practice change the designation of a document filed in civil penalty actions, expand certain sections of the rules to reflect existing statutes or regulations, eliminate provisions perceived by some to favor the agency, and expand the discretion of an administrative law judge in several areas.

The FAA did not identify, and the commenters did not provide, any specific economic consequences that can be attributed to the procedural changes adopted in this final rule. The FAA anticipates that the changes adopted herein will not result in any costs to respondents or the agency. However, adoption of the changes in the final rules could generate cost-relieving benefits to the agency and respondents, although to what extent has not been determined. If there are any costs or benefits associated with the changes to specific sections of the rules, the FAA expects their value, if any, to be minimal under the criteria of applicable Executive Orders, statutes, or regulations. Since there are no costs expected to accrue from this rule and only minimal benefits expected, the FAA is not required to prepare a full regulatory evaluation of the changes adopted in this final rulemaking document.

Nevertheless, the agency reviewed the amendments adopted herein to determine if there were any economic consequences attributable to adopting the proposals in the NPRM. The FAA specifically requested that the commenters discuss any economic consequences so that the FAA could prepare, if necessary, a full regulatory evaluation of the changes to the rules of practice or the agency's policies. With the exception of NBAA's limited comment on the issue of submission of written arguments, the commenters did not submit for the agency's review any data regarding potential costs or expected benefits and impacts of any changes or proposals in the NPRM or suggestions made by the commenters.

The commenters did not discuss any significant economic impact, positive or negative, on small entities, as those terms are defined in the Regulatory

Flexibility Act of 1980, that would arise by adopting the proposals in the NPRM. Commenters also failed to note any expected impact on trade opportunities for U.S. firms operating outside the United States or foreign firms operating within the United States. As anticipated in the NPRM, the FAA believes that neither small entities nor trade opportunities for businesses will be affected by amendment of the rules of practice as discussed herein. The commenters did not identify or discuss any Federalism issues that may be adversely affected if the proposals were adopted. It was the FAA's preliminary opinion in the NPRM and current opinion in this final rule that the changes adopted by the FAA do not have sufficient Federalism implications to warrant preparation of a Federalism Assessment under the criteria of Executive Order 12612.

Conclusion

The FAA has determined that the final rule is not a major regulation under the criteria of Executive Order 12291 and, thus, this rulemaking action does not warrant preparation of a Regulatory Impact Analysis. The FAA also certifies that the changes adopted in this final rule will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities. Because neither the FAA nor the commenters have identified any specific economic consequences associated with the changes, and the agency expects little or no cost or benefit to accrue from the changes, preparation of a full regulatory evaluation is not required. Because of the interest expressed by the public on the rules of practice, the FAA has determined that this final rule is significant under the Regulatory Policies and Procedures of the Department of Transportation (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979).

List of Subjects

14 CFR Part 13

Enforcement procedures,
Investigations, Penalties.

14 CFR Part 14

Equal access to justice, Lawyers.

The Amendments

Accordingly, the FAA amends part 13 and part 14 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR parts 13, 14) as follows:

PART 13—INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

1. The authority citation for part 13 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. App. 1354 (a) and (c), 1374(d), 1401–1406, 1421–1428, 1471, 1475, 1481, 1482 (a), (b), and (c), and 1484–1489, 1523 (Federal Aviation Act of 1958) (as amended, 49 U.S.C. App. 1471(a)(3) (Federal Aviation Administration Drug Enforcement Assistance Act of 1988); 49 U.S.C. App. 1475 (Airport and Airway Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1987); 49 U.S.C. App. 1655(c) (Department of Transportation Act, as revised, 49 U.S.C. 106(g)); 49 U.S.C. 1727 and 1730 (Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970); 49 U.S.C. 1808, 1809, and 1810 (Hazardous Materials Transportation Act); 49 U.S.C. 2218 and 2219 (Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982); 49 U.S.C. 2201 (as amended, 49 U.S.C. App. 2218, Airport and Airway Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1987); 18 U.S.C. 6002 and 6004 (Organized Crime Control Act of 1970); 49 CFR 1.47 (f), (k), and (q) (Regulations of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation).

2. Section 13.15 (a)(1) and (a)(2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 13.15 Civil penalties: Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, involving an amount in controversy in excess of \$50,000; an in rem action; seizure of aircraft; or injunctive relief.

(a) * * *

(1) Any person who violates any provision of Title III, V, VI, or XII of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in the Act for each violation in accordance with section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended [49 U.S.C. 1471, *et seq.*].

(2) Any person who violates section 404(d) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in the Act for each violation in accordance with section 404(d) or section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended [49 U.S.C. 1374, 1471, *et seq.*].

3. Section 13.16 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (c), (e)(3), (g)(3), (h), (l), (m), and (p) to read as follows:

§ 13.16 Civil Penalties: Federal Aviation Act of 1958, involving an amount in controversy not exceeding \$50,000; Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

(a) * * *

(1) Any person who violates any provision of Title III, V, VI, or XII of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in the Act for each violation in accordance with section 901

of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1471, *et seq.*).

(2) Any person who violates section 404(d) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in the Act for each violation in accordance with section 404(d) or section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1374, 1471, *et seq.*).

(c) The authority of the Administrator, under sections 901 and 905 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, and section 110 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, to initiate and assess civil penalties for a violation of those Acts, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is delegated to the Deputy Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement, and the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center. The authority of the Administrator to refer cases to the Attorney General of the United States, or the delegate of the Attorney General, for the collection of assessed civil penalties, is delegated to the Chief Counsel, the Deputy Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement, and the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center.

(e) * * *

(3) The person shall request a hearing, pursuant to paragraph (i) of this section, in which case a complaint shall be issued and shall be filed with the hearing docket clerk.

(g) * * *

(3) The person shall request a hearing, pursuant to paragraph (i) of this section, in which case a complaint shall be issued and shall be filed with the hearing docket clerk.

(h) *Complaint.* A complaint shall be issued if the person charged with a violation requests a hearing in accordance with paragraph (e)(3) or (g)(3) of this section.

(i) *Hearing.* If the person charged with a violation requests a hearing pursuant to paragraph (e)(3) or paragraph (g)(3) of this section, a complaint shall be issued and shall be filed with the hearing docket clerk. The procedural rules in subpart G of this part apply to the hearing and any appeal. At the close of the hearing, the administrative law judge shall issue, either orally on the record or in writing, an initial decision, including the reasons for the decision, that contains findings or conclusions on

the allegations contained, and the civil penalty sought, in the complaint. The initial decision issued by the administrative law judge shall become an order assessing civil penalty if a party does not appeal the administrative law judge's initial decision to the FAA decisionmaker.

(m) *Appeal.* Either party may appeal the administrative law judge's initial decision to the FAA decisionmaker pursuant to the procedures in subpart G of this part. If a party files a notice of appeal pursuant to § 13.233 of subpart G, the effectiveness of the initial decision is stayed until a final decision and order of the Administrator has been entered on the record. The FAA decisionmaker shall review the record and issue a final decision and order of the Administrator that affirms, modifies, or reverses the initial decision. The FAA decisionmaker shall not assess a civil penalty in an amount greater than the amount stated in the complaint.

(p) *Compromise.* The Administrator may compromise any civil penalty, assessed in accordance with sections 901 and 905 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, involving an amount in controversy not exceeding \$50,000, or any civil penalty assessed in accordance with section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, and section 110 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, at any time prior to referring the order assessing civil penalty to the United States Attorney for collection. A civil penalty compromise may include an agreement that the agency makes no finding of a violation, in which case the order assessing civil penalty shall be entitled "order assessing civil penalty/settlement without finding of violation." The order shall expressly provide that the agency makes no finding of a violation and the compromise agreement is not admissible as evidence of a prior violation in any subsequent civil penalty proceeding or certificate action proceeding.

4. Section 13.201 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) to read as follows:

§ 13.201 Applicability.

(a) * * *

(1) A civil penalty action in which a complaint has been issued for an amount not exceeding \$50,000 for a violation arising under the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1301, *et seq.*), or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder.

(2) A civil penalty action in which a complaint has been issued for a violation arising under the Federal

Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1471, *et seq.*) and the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*), or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder.

5. Section 13.202 is amended by removing the definition "Order of Civil Penalty" and by revising the definitions of "Agency attorney," "Complaint," "Order assessing civil penalty," "Party," and "Respondent" to read as follows:

§ 13.202 Definitions.

Agency attorney means the Deputy Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement, the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center, or an attorney on the staff of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement or the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center who prosecutes a civil penalty action. An agency attorney shall not include the Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation, or any attorney on the staff of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation who advises the FAA decisionmaker regarding an initial decision or any appeal to the FAA decisionmaker or who is supervised in that action by a person who provides such advice in a civil penalty action.

Complaint means a document issued by an agency attorney alleging a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, or the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, which has been filed with the hearing docket after a hearing has been requested pursuant to § 13.16(e)(3) or § 13.16(g)(3) of this part.

Order assessing civil penalty means an order issued by an agency attorney, or an initial decision issued by an administrative law judge that is not appealed to the FAA decisionmaker, that directs a person to pay a civil penalty.

Party means the agency attorney, or the respondent named in a complaint.

Respondent means a person to whom a civil penalty is directed and who has received a complaint.

6. Section 13.203 is revised to read as follows:

§ 13.203 Separation of functions.

(a) Civil penalty proceedings, including hearings, shall be prosecuted by an agency attorney.

(b) An FAA employee engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecutorial functions in a civil penalty action shall not, in that case or a factually-related case, participate or give advice in a decision by the administrative law judge or by the FAA decisionmaker on appeal, except as counsel or a witness in the public proceedings.

(c) The Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation, or attorneys on the staff of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation will advise the FAA decisionmaker regarding an initial decision or any appeal of that civil penalty action to the FAA decisionmaker.

7. Section 13.208 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 13.208 Complaint.

(a) The agency attorney shall serve the original complaint on the person requesting the hearing.

8. Section 13.209 is amended by revising paragraphs (a), (d), and (f) to read as follows:

§ 13.209 Answer.

(a) *Writing required.* A person who receives a complaint shall file a written answer to the complaint, or a motion pursuant to § 13.218(f) (1) through (4) of this subpart, not later than 30 days after service of the complaint. The answer may be in the form of a letter but must be dated and signed by the person responding to the complaint. An answer may be typewritten or may be legibly handwritten.

(d) *Specific denial of allegations required.* A person filing an answer shall admit, deny, or state that the person is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny each allegation in each numbered paragraph of the complaint. A general denial of the complaint is deemed a failure to file an answer. Any statement or allegation contained in the complaint that is not specifically denied in the answer is deemed an admission of the truth of that allegation.

(f) *Failure to file answer.* A person's failure to file an answer without good cause is deemed an admission of the truth of each allegation contained in the complaint and an order assessing civil penalty shall be issued.

9. Section 13.218 is amended by revising paragraph (f)(1), the introductory text of paragraph (f)(2) and paragraphs (f)(2)(ii) and (f)(3) to read as follows:

§ 13.218 Motions.

(f) * * *

(1) *Motion to dismiss for insufficiency.* A party may file a motion to dismiss the complaint for insufficiency instead of an answer. If the administrative law judge denies the motion to dismiss the complaint for insufficiency, the party who received the complaint shall file an answer not later than 10 days after service of the administrative law judge's denial of the motion. A motion to dismiss the complaint for insufficiency must show that the complaint fails to state a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, or a violation of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder.

(2) *Motion to dismiss.* A party may file a motion to dismiss a complaint instead of an answer, specifying the grounds for dismissal.

(ii) If the administrative law judge grants a motion to dismiss and terminates the proceedings without a hearing, the agency attorney may file an appeal pursuant to § 13.233 of this subpart. If the administrative law judge grants a motion to dismiss in part, the agency attorney may appeal the administrative law judge's decision to dismiss part of the complaint under the provisions of § 13.219(c) of this subpart. If required by the decision on appeal, the respondent shall file an answer with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the answer on each party not later than 10 days after service of the decision on appeal.

(3) *Motion for more definite statement.* A party may file a motion for more definite statement of any pleading which requires a response under this subpart. A party shall set forth, in detail, the indefinite or uncertain allegations contained in a complaint or response to any pleading and shall submit the details that the party believes would make the allegation or response definite and certain.

(i) *Complaint.* A party may file a motion requesting a more definite statement of the allegations contained in the complaint instead of an answer. If the administrative law judge grants the motion, and the agency attorney does not supply a more definite statement not later than 15 days after service of the

order granting the motion, the administrative law judge shall strike the allegations in the complaint to which the motion is directed. If the administrative law judge denies the motion, the respondent shall file an answer with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the answer on each party not later than 10 days after service of the order of denial.

(ii) *Answer.* A party may file a motion requesting a more definite statement if an answer fails to clearly respond to the allegations in the complaint. If the administrative law judge grants the motion, the respondent shall supply a more definite statement not later than 15 days after service of the ruling on the motion. If the respondent fails to supply a more definite statement, the administrative law judge shall strike those statements in the answer to which the motion is directed. A party's failure to supply a more definite statement is deemed a failure to answer and the unanswered allegations in the complaint are deemed admitted.

10. Section 13.219 is amended by revising paragraph (c)(4) to read as follows:

§ 13.219 Interlocutory appeals.

(c) * * *

(4) A ruling by the administrative law judge granting, in part, a respondent's motion to dismiss a complaint pursuant to § 13.218(f)(2)(ii).

11. Section 13.220 is amended by revising paragraph (1)(3) to read as follows:

§ 13.220 Discovery.

(i) * * *

(3) *Effect of admission.* Any matter admitted or deemed admitted under this section is conclusively established for the purpose of the hearing and appeal.

12. Section 13.227 is revised to read as follows:

§ 13.227 Expert or opinion witnesses.

An employee of the agency may not be called as an expert or opinion witness, for any party other than the agency, in any proceeding governed by this subpart. An employee of a respondent may not be called by an agency attorney as an expert or opinion witness for the agency in any proceeding governed by this subpart to which the respondent is a party.

13. Section 13.231 is revised to read as follows:

§ 13.231 Argument before the administrative law judge.

(a) *Arguments during the hearing.* During the hearing, the administrative law judge shall give the parties a reasonable opportunity to present arguments on the record supporting or opposing motions, objections, and rulings if the parties request an opportunity for argument. The administrative law judge may request written arguments during the hearing if the administrative law judge finds that submission of written arguments would be reasonable.

(b) *Final oral argument.* At the conclusion of the hearing and before the administrative law judge issues an initial decision in the proceedings, the parties are entitled to submit oral proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, exceptions to rulings of the administrative law judge, and supporting arguments for the findings, conclusions, or exceptions. At the conclusion of the hearing, a party may waive final oral argument.

(c) *Posthearing briefs.* The administrative law judge may request written posthearing briefs before the administrative law judge issues an initial decision in the proceedings if the administrative law judge finds that submission of written arguments would be reasonable. If a party files a written posthearing brief, the party shall include proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, exceptions to rulings of the administrative law judge, and supporting arguments for the findings, conclusions, or exceptions. The administrative law judge shall give the parties a reasonable opportunity, not more than 30 days after receipt of the transcript, to prepare and submit the briefs.

14. Section 13.232 is revised to read as follows:

§ 13.232 Initial decision.

(a) *Contents.* The administrative law judge shall issue an initial decision at the conclusion of the hearing. In each oral or written decision, the

administrative law judge shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law, and the grounds supporting those findings and conclusions, upon all material issues of fact, the credibility of witnesses, the applicable law, any exercise of the administrative law judge's discretion, the amount of any civil penalty found appropriate by the administrative law judge, and a discussion of the basis for any order issued in the proceedings. The administrative law judge is not required to provide a written explanation for rulings on objections, procedural motions, and other matters not directly relevant to the substance of the initial decision. If the administrative law judge refers to any previous unreported or unpublished initial decision, the administrative law judge shall make copies of that initial decision available to all parties and the FAA decisionmaker.

(b) *Oral decision.* Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, at the conclusion of the hearing, the administrative law judge shall issue the initial decision and order orally on the record.

(c) *Written decision.* The administrative law judge may issue a written initial decision not later than 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing or submission of the last posthearing brief if the administrative law judge finds that issuing a written initial decision is reasonable. The administrative law judge shall serve a copy of any written initial decision on each party.

(d) *Order assessing civil penalty.* The initial decision issued by the administrative law judge shall become an order assessing civil penalty if the administrative law judge finds that an alleged violation occurred and determines that a civil penalty, in an amount found appropriate by the administrative law judge, is warranted.

15. Section 13.233 is amended by revising paragraph (j)(1) to read as follows:

§ 13.233 Appeal from initial decision.

* * * *

(j) * * *

(1) The FAA decisionmaker may raise any issue, on the FAA decisionmaker's own initiative, that is required for proper disposition of the proceedings. The FAA decisionmaker will give the parties a reasonable opportunity to submit arguments on the new issues before making a decision on appeal. If an issue raised by the FAA decisionmaker requires the consideration of additional testimony or evidence, the FAA decisionmaker will remand the case to the administrative law judge for further proceedings and an initial decision related to that issue. If an issue raised by the FAA decisionmaker is solely an issue of law or the issue was addressed at the hearing but was not raised by a party in the briefs on appeal, a remand of the case to the administrative law judge for further proceedings is not required but may be provided in the discretion of the FAA decisionmaker.

* * * *

PART 14—RULES IMPLEMENTING THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 1980

16. The authority citation for part 14 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 504 (Equal Access to Justice Act); 49 U.S.C. App. 1354(a) and (c) (Department of Transportation Act, as revised, 49 U.S.C. 106(g)).

17. Section 14.05 is amended by revising paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 14.05 Allowance fees and expenses.

* * * *

(e) Fees may be awarded only for work performed after the issuance of a complaint.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 17, 1990.

James B. Busey,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 90-9174 Filed 04-17-90; 12:23 pm]

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Federal Register

Friday
April 20, 1990

Part IV

Department of Transportation

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 13

Rules of Practice for FAA Civil Penalty
Actions; Notice of Proposed Rules

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 13

[Docket No. 25690; Notice No. 90-13]

Rules of Practice for FAA Civil Penalty Actions

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This notice invites public comment on the rules of practice regarding the FAA's civil penalty authority in actions not exceeding \$50,000 for a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, and in actions regardless of amount for a violation of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or any rule, regulation or order issued thereunder. In accordance with a decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, on April 13, 1990, the FAA is publishing the initiation procedures and the rules of practice in their entirety for public comment by interested persons.

DATES: Written comments on the notice of proposed rulemaking must be received on or before May 21, 1990

ADDRESSES: Written comments, in triplicate, on this notice may be mailed or delivered to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket (AGC-10), Room 915G, Docket No. 25690, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591. Comments submitted on the notice must be marked "Docket No. 25690." Comments may be inspected in the Rules Docket (room 915G) between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise Daniels Ross, Special Counsel to the Chief Counsel (AGC-3), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3773.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Comments Invited

This notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) is issued to solicit broad public participation in rulemaking proceedings on specific areas of the rules of practice in civil penalty proceedings. Interested persons are invited to participate in this rulemaking proceeding by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments must identify the regulatory docket number or

notice number of this document and must be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. All comments received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered before taking further rulemaking action. Persons wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with their comments a preaddressed postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. 25690." The postcard will be date and time stamped and returned to the commenter. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel involved in this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of the NPRM

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Public Affairs, Attention: Public Information Center (APA-430), 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-3484. Communications must identify the notice number of this NPRM. Persons interested in being placed on the mailing list for future NPRMs also should request a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedures.

Background

On August 31, 1988, by final rule, the FAA promulgated rules of practice (53 FR 34646; Sept. 7, 1988) for civil penalty actions conducted under a statutory amendment (Pub. L. 100-223; Dec. 30, 1987) to the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended. That amendment empowers the Administrator to assess civil penalties, not to exceed \$50,000, for violations of the Federal Aviation Act and the FAA's safety regulations promulgated thereunder. Under this authority, a civil penalty may be assessed only after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record. In the final rule, the FAA invited interested persons to comment on the rules of practice.

On March 17, 1989, the FAA issued a detailed disposition of the 20 comments submitted on the rules of practice, responding to the commenters' objections to specific provisions of the rules of practice. 54 FR 11914; March 22, 1989. In the disposition of comments, the agency explained the purpose of the

rules of practice and discussed its expectations of the manner in which cases would proceed under those rules.

The Air Transport Association of America (ATA) filed a petition for review in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (No. 89-1195), challenging the agency's promulgation of the final rule and the rules of practice for civil penalty actions. Several persons in their individual capacity, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the National Air Carrier Association (NACA), the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), and America West intervened in support of ATA's petition for review.

On April 13, 1990, the court of appeals issued its decision in *Air Transport Association v. Department of Transportation*. In a 2-1 decision, the court agreed with the petitioner that the FAA was obliged by section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act to provide notice and comment before the rules of practice in civil penalty actions were promulgated. The court held that the procedural challenge to promulgation of the rules of practice in August 1988 was ripe for review and granted the petition for review on that ground. The court expressed no opinion on the ripeness or the merits of the Air Transport Association's several substantive challenges to the rules of practice.

The court ordered the FAA "not to initiate further prosecutions * * * until the agency has engaged in further rulemaking in accord with section 553." Slip op. at 21. In the exercise of its "equitable remedial powers," the court stated, "[T]he FAA is free to hold pending cases in abeyance while it engages in further rulemaking. If and when the FAA promulgates a final rule for adjudication of administrative penalty actions, it may then resume prosecution of these cases." *Id.* at 20-21.

In accordance with the court's decision, all FAA prosecuting attorneys will hold in abeyance all civil penalty cases initiated under the rules of practice and will not initiate any notice of proposed civil penalty until further notice. They also will not proceed even with informal procedures, such as informal conferences, until further notice. Chief Administrative Law Judge Mathias, of the Office of Hearings of the Department of Transportation, has also requested the administrative law judges to postpone hearings that had been scheduled and not to schedule any future hearings until further notice. The FAA and the Office of Hearings of the Department of Transportation will make every effort to notify all persons whose cases are pending of the court's

decision, whether or not a hearing has been held, scheduled, or not yet scheduled.

Because all proceedings under the rules of practice have been suspended as a result of the court's decision, the agency intends to move expeditiously with this rulemaking. Therefore, the agency requests public comments within 30 days. The agency believes a 30-day comment period is reasonable, given the familiarity of the aviation community with the current (and proposed) rules of practice, and the several previous opportunities the public has had to comment on these rules. The agency also believes that good cause exists to make any rules of practice, as may be adopted or amended following public comment, immediately effective upon publication of a final rule, and so intends at this time. The court's decision permits the FAA to "resume prosecution of [pending] cases" upon promulgation of a final rule, slip op. at 21, and the agency believes that immediate implementation of rules of practice on publication of a final rule in the *Federal Register* will serve the interests all parties share in fairness and expedition. The FAA intends to republish the entire initiation procedures and any rules of practice adopted in a final rule because the FAA distributes the *Federal Register* document to those charged with an alleged violation.

Discussion

In its opinion, the court stated that "Insofar as the FAA's pending notice of proposed rulemaking [issued on February 28, 1990 (55 FR 7960; March 6, 1990)] seeks public comment on the individual Rules that the agency intends to amend, the agency may rely on the outcome of that rulemaking as a partial fulfillment of this mandate." Slip op. at 20. Concurrently with the issuance of this NPRM, the FAA has published in a separate part of today's *Federal Register* a final rule, adopting changes to specific rules of practice. The rules of practice, published herein for comment, include the changes adopted pursuant to that final rule. In light of the court's decision, the FAA has suspended the effective date of the changes to the rules of practice contained in the final rule, pending further notification in the *Federal Register*.

Several commenters to the NPRM issued in February 1990, in addition to addressing the issues raised in the notice, also express opinions on other sections of the rules of practice that are outside the scope of that notice. Generally, the FAA is not including specific proposals here or adopting additional suggested changes to other

rules of practice because other interested persons did not have an opportunity to review the relevant sections and any proposed revisions or discussion submitted by the commenters. Nevertheless, these comments indicate concern with other sections of the rules that heretofore may not have been raised by previous commenters. In this NPRM, the FAA has presented those concerns and solicits comment on those issues as well as on any other issues presented by the rules of practice proposed in this document.

1. *Limitations period.* Six commenters (ALPA, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), ATA, Allied Pilots Association (APA), NACA, and one private attorney) want the FAA to adopt a time limit within which the agency would be required to initiate a notice of proposed civil penalty after an alleged violation of the Federal Aviation Regulations has occurred. EAA suggests that the FAA "modify" section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act (49 U.S.C. App. 1471) to incorporate a time limit. Of course, the agency does not have the authority unilaterally to modify any statute.

NACA, ALPA, EAA, and APA note the NTSB's stale complaint rule (49 CFR 821.33), which requires the FAA to initiate a certificate action against an airman within six months of the alleged violation. A certificate action brought against an airman more than six months after the alleged violation may be dismissed by the NTSB unless the FAA can demonstrate good cause for the delay, or unless the airman's qualifications to hold an airman certificate are at issue.

APA suggests that the FAA simply adopt the NTSB rule, while other commenters suggest that the FAA adopt a 6-month time limit with regard to the initiation of all enforcement actions. These commenters assert that an enforcement action initiated more than six months after an alleged violation is unfair, primarily because the "ability to preserve evidence is seriously compromised" after more than six months.

This suggestion was initially made in comments to the rules of practice promulgated in August 1988. In its disposition of those comments, the agency noted that, in the absence of any specific limitations period in the Federal Aviation Act or the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 28 U.S.C. 2462 provides a 5-year period. 54 FR 11919; March 22, 1989. That section provides in pertinent part:

Except as otherwise provided by Act of Congress, an action, suit or proceeding for the

enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, shall not be entertained unless commenced within five years from the date when the claim first accrued[.]

At the time, the agency declined to adopt a shorter time period by regulation, concluding that such a regulation "is not necessary to carry out its enforcement responsibilities." 54 FR at 11919-11920.

The FAA recognizes that there may be some merit to a provision that would require the agency to bring a civil penalty within a period shorter than five years. One of the main purposes of the administrative assessment of civil penalties is to avoid the lengthy process that can result when the FAA refers a case to a U.S. Attorney. The FAA has always stated that such a process, which often takes years to be resolved, serves neither the public interest nor the interests of the respondent. The interests of both aviation safety and those regulated by the FAA are best served when action taken by the FAA is expeditious.

Expedition initiation of a case, however, often is hampered by the agency's limited resources and competing priorities. Given this reality, the agency must strike a balance between the public's interest in having the FAA prosecute violations of its safety regulations, and a respondent's interest in fair and expeditious adjudication of an action. There are many important safety considerations and policy issues that must be explored before the FAA would issue a regulation that mandates a time limit for agency initiation of enforcement actions. Indeed, NACA and ATA state that the FAA should issue an NPRM on the subject.

Notwithstanding the general 5-year limitation period set by Congress, nothing currently prevents a respondent who believes it has been prejudiced by the agency's delay in initiating the case from asserting such prejudice as a defense in an administrative hearing. The agency believes it is within the province and authority of an administrative law judge under section 555(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act to dismiss an action if the respondent demonstrates actual prejudice as a result of the agency's unreasonable delay in initiating enforcement action. That section provides, "With due regard for the convenience and necessity of the parties or their representatives and within a reasonable time, each agency shall proceed to conclude a matter presented to it." In applying section 555(b), the

courts have applied a standard of undue delay by the government and prejudice to the respondent. See, e.g., *EEOC v. Exchange Security Bank*, 529 F.2d 1214 (5th Cir. 1976); *Chromcraft Corp. v. EEOC*, 465 F.2d 745 (5th Cir. 1972); *EEOC v. Bell Helicopter*, 426 F.Supp. 785, 792 (N.D. Tex. 1976). Consequently, if a respondent were unable adequately to defend against the FAA's allegations because documents are inadvertently destroyed or witnesses become unavailable due to the agency's delay in initiating a case, the respondent could petition the administrative law judge to dismiss the action, or a portion thereof, on the basis of such prejudice.

While the agency is not prepared at this time to propose specifically a shorter limitations period than that provided by statute, the agency is soliciting comment on this issue from interested parties to allow it to amend the rules of practice in response to comment in this rulemaking. Commenters are asked to state the comparative benefits of a specific time period provision versus a provision that would codify the undue delay and prejudice standard used by administrative agencies and courts pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. If a specific time period is supported, commenters should address how the specific time period recommended fits the purpose of a limitations period and offer examples, if any, where the initiation of a case outside of the recommended period resulted in prejudice to a respondent in a civil penalty action, before the FAA or any other agency. Commenters should discuss whether receipt of a letter of investigation within a relatively brief time period would obviate a period of limitations in which a notice of civil penalty must be issued. The commenters should also address the critical date from which the period would run (i.e., the date of alleged violation, the date of discovery of the alleged violation, or some other date), and the critical event which must be taken within the time period (i.e., issuance of notice of proposed civil penalty, letter of investigation). Finally, commenters should discuss whether there would be any circumstances whereby the agency's failure to bring an action within the time specified would be excused.

2. Verification of pleadings. A private attorney objects to § 13.220(k)(1) that provides, in pertinent part:

A party shall answer each interrogatory separately and completely in writing and under oath. A party's attorney may sign the response to the interrogatories if the attorney

has verification of authority to sign from the party.

This commenter states that it is common practice in NTSB proceedings for FAA attorneys to sign pleadings on behalf of the agency without an accompanying verification of authorization. The commenter states that, under this section of the FAA's rules, a respondent is required to respond to interrogatories under oath but the agency is not. The commenter suggests that the agency amend § 13.220(k)(1) so that neither party is required to verify its interrogatory responses or both parties are required to so verify. While the rule appears on its face to address both parties to an action, the agency requests comment on this suggestion so that any asymmetry in the rule could be corrected.

3. Service of documents. ATA suggests a revision to the rules of practice and the initiation procedures to provide guidance on the appropriate person to accept service of documents on behalf of a respondent. ATA's concern arises from the corporate structure of its members who may not have designated one person or several persons to accept service of documents. ATA suggests that the FAA add a section to the rules of practice or amend § 13.16 to specify that the agency will serve a notice of proposed civil penalty on the person who responded to a letter of investigation or on the president or other designated officer of a company at its principal business address. Subsequent documents could be served on the person who responds to the notice or the attorney of record. ATA states that it makes sense to direct documents in "a manner reasonably calculated to put the company on notice of the formal initiation of a civil penalty." Because of the agency's structure, the FAA understands ATA's concern for guidance on service of documents to large organizations with nationwide operations. ATA suggests that a Departmental rule in economic proceedings (14 CFR 302.8(c)) provides a good model. The FAA requests comment on ATA's suggestion.

4. Prehearing procedures. American Airlines suggests revision of the FAA's prehearing procedures in civil penalty cases involving an amount not exceeding \$50,000. American believes that the enabling legislation neither contemplated nor justified revision of the prehearing procedures, particularly in light of the differences in those procedures in cases involving civil penalties exceeding \$50,000 and those procedures involving civil penalties at or below that amount. American objects

specifically to the time limits contained in § 13.16 and proposes changes to the process.

American suggests the following criteria applicable to all civil penalty actions: (1) Specify a time in the rules by which a person must respond to a notice of proposed civil penalty; (2) specify that a person is able to compromise the civil penalty proposed in a notice without a finding of violation; (3) eliminate forfeiture of a right to a hearing even if a respondent does not meet the deadline for responding to a notice; (4) specify that an action will be referred to a U.S. Attorney or a complaint will be filed with the Hearing Docket clerk if an action is not compromised during the prehearing procedures; (5) restrict default judgments or default admissions of liability until after a complaint is filed either in district court or with an administrative law judge. American believes that the FAA and respondents will benefit from "a return to the original prehearing posture" of compromise. The FAA solicits comment on American's suggestion.

Regulatory Evaluation

The FAA has determined that this notice of proposed rulemaking is not a major rule under the criteria of Executive Order 12291; thus, the FAA is not required to prepare a draft Regulatory Impact Analysis under either the Executive Order or the Regulatory Policies and Procedures of the Department of Transportation (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979).

In nonmajor rulemaking actions, the DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures require the FAA to prepare a draft regulatory evaluation, analyzing the economic consequences of proposed regulations and quantifying, to the extent practicable, the estimated costs and anticipated benefits and impacts of proposed regulations. This notice invites comment on the agency's rules of practice in civil penalty actions.

Preliminarily, the FAA has not identified any specific economic consequences that would be attributed to the procedural rules. Moreover, the FAA does not anticipate that the proposed rules would result in any significant costs or substantial benefits to respondents or the agency. If there are any costs or benefits associated with the rules of practice, the FAA expects that any economic consequences or impacts would be minimal under the criteria of applicable Executive Orders, statutes, or regulations. If that expectation is accurate, the FAA would not be required to prepare a full regulatory

evaluation of the rules adopted in any final rulemaking document.

Nevertheless, the agency will analyze the economic consequences, if any, of the proposed rules of practice. So that the FAA may prepare, if necessary, a full regulatory evaluation of the rules of practice, commenters are encouraged to submit for the agency's review any data regarding potential costs or expected benefits and impacts of any proposed rule or proposals made by the commenters.

Commenters should discuss any significant economic impact, positive or negative, on small entities, as those terms are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, that may arise from adopting the rules of practice in this notice. Commenters also should note any expected impact on trade opportunities for U.S. firms operating outside the United States or foreign firms operating within the United States. At this point, the FAA believes that neither small entities nor trade opportunities for businesses would be affected if the proposed rules were adopted. It is the FAA's preliminary opinion that the proposals in this NPRM do not have sufficient Federalism implications to warrant preparation of a Federalism Assessment under the criteria of Executive Order 12612. Commenters should identify and discuss any Federalism issues that may be adversely affected if the proposals are adopted.

Conclusion

The FAA has determined that the NPRM is not a major regulation under the criteria of Executive Order 12291 and, thus, this action does not warrant preparation of a draft Regulatory Impact Analysis. The FAA also expects that the proposals in this NPRM, if adopted, would not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities. Because the FAA has been unable to identify any economic consequences associated with the proposals in this NPRM, the agency has not prepared a full draft regulatory evaluation for this rulemaking. The FAA anticipates that there would be little or no economic cost or benefit associated with adoption of these proposals; thus, preparation of a full regulatory evaluation would not be required if the proposed changes are adopted. Because of the interest expressed by the public on the rules of practice, the FAA has determined that this notice of proposed rulemaking is significant under the Regulatory Policies and Procedures of the Department of Transportation (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979).

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 13

Enforcement procedures,
Investigations, Penalties.

The Proposed Amendments

Accordingly, the FAA amends part 13 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 13) as follows:

PART 13—INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

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

Authority: 49 U.S.C. App. 1354 (a) and (c), 1374(d), 1401-1406, 1421-1428, 1471, 1475, 1481, 1482 (a), (b), and (c), and 1484-1489, 1523 (Federal Aviation Act of 1958) (as amended, 49 U.S.C. App. 1471(a)(3) (Federal Aviation Administration Drug Enforcement Assistance Act of 1988); 49 U.S.C. App. 1475 (Airport and Airway Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1987); 49 U.S.C. App. 1655(c) (Department of Transportation Act, as revised, 49 U.S.C. 106(g)); 49 U.S.C. 1727 and 1730 (Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970); 49 U.S.C. 1808, 1809, and 1810 (Hazardous Materials Transportation Act); 49 U.S.C. 2218 and 2219 (Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982); 49 U.S.C. 2201 (as amended, 49 U.S.C. App. 2218, Airport and Airway Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1987); 18 U.S.C. 6002 and 6004 (Organized Crime Control Act of 1970); 49 CFR § 1.47 (f), (k), and (g) (Regulations of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation).

2. Section 13.16 is revised to read as follows:

§ 13.16 Civil Penalties: Federal Aviation Act of 1958, involving an amount in controversy not exceeding \$50,000; Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

(a) The following penalties apply to persons who violate the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, and the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act:

(1) Any person who violates any provision of title III, V, VI, or XII of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in the Act for each violation in accordance with section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1471, *et seq.*).

(2) Any person who violates section 404(d) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in the Act for each violation in accordance with section 404(d) or section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1374, 1471, *et seq.*).

(3) Any person who operates aircraft for the carriage of persons or property for compensation or hire (other than an

airman serving in the capacity of an airman) is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation of Title III, VI, or XII of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, occurring after December 30, 1987, in accordance with section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1471, *et seq.*).

(4) Any person who knowingly commits an act in violation of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation in accordance with section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, and section 110 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1471 and 1809, *et seq.*). An order assessing civil penalty for a violation under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, will be issued only after consideration of—

- (i) The nature and circumstances of the violation;
- (ii) The extent and gravity of the violation;
- (iii) The person's degree of culpability;
- (iv) The person's history of prior violations;
- (v) The person's ability to pay the civil penalty;
- (vi) The effect on the person's ability to continue in business; and
- (vii) Such other matters as justice may require.

(b) An order assessing civil penalty may be issued for a violation described in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(4) of this section after notice and opportunity for a hearing.

(c) The authority of the Administrator, under sections 901 and 905 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, and section 110 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, to initiate and assess civil penalties for a violation of those Acts, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, is delegated to the Deputy Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement, and the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center. The authority of the Administrator to refer cases to the Attorney General of the United States, or the delegate of the Attorney General, for the collection of assessed civil penalties, is delegated to the Chief Counsel, the Deputy Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement, and the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center.

(d) Notice of proposed civil penalty. A civil penalty action is initiated by

sending a notice of proposed civil penalty to the person charged with a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder. The notice of proposed civil penalty contains a statement of the charges and the amount of the proposed civil penalty.

(e) *Procedures following receipt of notice of proposed civil penalty.* Not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of proposed civil penalty, the person charged with a violation shall do one of the following:

(1) The person shall submit the amount of the proposed civil penalty in which case an order assessing civil penalty shall be issued in that amount.

(2) The person shall participate in the informal procedures provided in paragraph (f) of this section.

(3) The person shall request a hearing, pursuant to paragraph (i) of this section, in which case a complaint shall be issued and shall be filed with the hearing docket clerk.

(f) *Informal procedures.* Not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of proposed civil penalty, the person charged with a violation, who wants to participate in informal procedures, shall do one of the following:

(1) The person shall submit any information, including documents and witness statements, in writing, to the agency attorney, demonstrating that a violation of the regulations did not occur or that the penalty or the amount of the penalty is not warranted by the circumstances.

(2) The person shall submit a written request to the agency attorney to reduce the proposed civil penalty and shall submit, in writing, the reasons and documents supporting the reduction of the proposed civil penalty, including records indicating a financial inability to pay or records showing that payment of the proposed civil penalty would prevent the person from continuing in business.

(3) The person shall submit a written request to the agency attorney for an informal conference to discuss the matter with the agency attorney and to submit relevant information or documents to the agency attorney.

(g) *Procedures following interim reply or informal conference.* Not later than 10 days after the person charged with a violation receives an interim reply to any submission made in accordance with paragraph (f)(1) or paragraph (f)(2) or not later than 10 days after an informal conference, the person charged with a violation shall do one of the following:

(1) The person shall submit the amount of the proposed civil penalty in which case an order assessing civil penalty shall be issued in that amount.

(2) The person shall submit additional written information to the agency attorney for consideration.

(3) The person shall request a hearing, pursuant to paragraph (i) of this section, in which case a complaint shall be issued and shall be filed with the hearing docket clerk.

(h) *Complaint.* A complaint shall be issued if the person charged with a violation requests a hearing in accordance with paragraph (e)(3) or (g)(3) of this section.

(i) *Request for a hearing.* Any person who receives a notice of proposed civil penalty may request a hearing, pursuant to paragraph (e)(3) or paragraph (g)(3) of this section, to be conducted in accordance with the procedures in subpart G of this part. A person requesting a hearing shall file a written request for a hearing with the agency attorney. The request for a hearing may be in the form of a letter but must be dated and signed by the person requesting a hearing. The request for a hearing may be typewritten or may be legibly handwritten. A person requesting a hearing shall include a suggested location for the hearing in the request for a hearing.

(j) *Order assessing civil penalty.* An order assessing civil penalty shall be issued if the person charged with a violation—

(1) Submits the amount of the proposed civil penalty in which case the order assessing civil penalty shall reflect receipt of the civil penalty;

(2) Does not respond in a timely manner to the notice of proposed civil penalty;

(3) Does not respond in a timely manner to interim replies from the agency attorney under paragraph (g) of this section; or

(4) Does not comply with any agreement reached between the parties during an informal conference.

(k) *Payment.* A person charged with a violation may pay the amount of the civil penalty proposed in the notice or stated in the order, or an amount agreed upon, by sending a certified check or money order, payable to the Federal Aviation Administration, to the agency attorney.

(l) *Hearing.* If the person charged with a violation requests a hearing pursuant to paragraph (e)(3) or paragraph (g)(3) of this section, a complaint shall be issued and shall be filed with the hearing docket clerk. The procedural rules in subpart G of this part apply to the hearing and any appeal. At the close of

the hearing, the administrative law judge shall issue, either orally on the record or in writing, an initial decision, including the reasons for the decision, that contains findings or conclusions on the allegations contained, and the civil penalty sought, in the complaint. The initial decision issued by the administrative law judge shall become an order assessing civil penalty if a party does not appeal the administrative law judge's initial decision to the FAA decisionmaker.

(m) *Appeal.* Either party may appeal the administrative law judge's initial decision to the FAA decisionmaker pursuant to the procedures in subpart G of this part. If a party files a notice of appeal pursuant to § 13.233 of subpart G, the effectiveness of the initial decision is stayed until a final decision and order of the Administrator has been entered on the record. The FAA decisionmaker shall review the record and issue a final decision and order of the Administrator that affirms, modifies, or reverses the initial decision. The FAA decisionmaker shall not assess a civil penalty in an amount greater than the amount stated in the complaint.

(n) *Exhaustion of administrative remedies.* A party may appeal only a final decision and order of the Administrator to the courts of appeals of the United States or the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia pursuant to section 1006 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended. An order or an initial decision of an administrative law judge, that has not been appealed to the FAA decisionmaker, does not constitute a final order of the Administrator for the purposes of judicial appellate review under section 1006 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended.

(o) If a person subject to an order assessing civil penalty does not pay the assessed civil penalty within 60 days after service of the order assessing civil penalty, the Administrator may refer the order to the United States Attorney General, or the delegate of the Attorney General, to begin proceedings in a United States District Court, pursuant to the authority in section 903 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1473), or section 110 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1809), to collect the civil penalty.

(p) *Compromise.* The Administrator may compromise any civil penalty, assessed in accordance with sections 901 and 905 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, involving an amount in controversy not exceeding \$50,000, or any civil penalty assessed in

accordance with section 901 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, and section 110 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, at any time prior to referring the order assessing civil penalty to the United States Attorney for collection. A civil penalty compromise may include an agreement that the agency makes no finding of a violation, in which case the order assessing civil penalty shall be entitled "order assessing civil penalty/settlement without finding of violation." The order shall expressly provide that the agency makes no finding of a violation and the compromise agreement is not admissible as evidence of a prior violation in any subsequent civil penalty proceeding or certificate action proceeding.

3. Part 13, subpart G, (§ 13.201-§ 13.235) is revised to read as follows:

PART 13—INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Subpart G—Rules of Practice in FAA Civil Penalty Actions

Sec.

- 13.201 Applicability.
- 13.202 Definitions.
- 13.203 Separation of functions.
- 13.204 Appearances and rights of parties.
- 13.205 Administrative law judges.
- 13.206 Intervention.
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- 13.208 Complaint.
- 13.209 Answer.
- 13.210 Filing of documents.
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- 13.212 Computation of time.
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- 13.214 Amendment of pleadings.
- 13.215 Withdrawal of complaint or request for hearing.
- 13.216 Waivers.
- 13.217 Joint procedural or discovery schedule.
- 13.218 Motions.
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- 13.220 Discovery.
- 13.221 Notice of hearing.
- 13.222 Evidence.
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- 13.225 Offer of proof.
- 13.226 Public disclosure of evidence.
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- 13.228 Subpoenas.
- 13.229 Witness fees.
- 13.230 Record.
- 13.231 Argument before the administrative law judge.
- 13.232 Initial decision.
- 13.233 Appeal from initial decision.
- 13.234 Petition to reconsider or modify final decision and order of the FAA decisionmaker on appeal.
- 13.235 Judicial review of final decision and order.

Subpart G—Rules of Practice in FAA Civil Penalty Actions

§ 13.201 Applicability.

(a) This subpart applies to the following actions:

(1) A civil penalty action in which a complaint has been issued for an amount not exceeding \$50,000 for a violation arising under the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1301, *et seq.*), or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder.

(2) A civil penalty action in which a complaint has been issued for a violation arising under the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1471, *et seq.*) and the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*), or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder.

(b) This subpart applies only to proceedings initiated after September 7, 1988. All other cases, hearings, or other proceedings pending or in progress at the time this subpart is effective are not affected by the rules in this subpart.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, the United States district courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction of any civil penalty action initiated by the Administrator:

(1) Which involves an amount in controversy in excess of \$50,000;

(2) Which is an *in rem* action or in which an *in rem* action based on the same violation has been brought;

(3) Regarding which an aircraft subject to lien has been seized by the United States; and

(4) In which a suit for injunctive relief based on the violation giving rise to the civil penalty has also been brought.

§ 13.202 Definitions.

Administrative law judge means an administrative law judge appointed pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 3105.

Agency attorney means the Deputy Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement, the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center, or an attorney on the staff of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement or the Assistant Chief Counsel for a region or center who prosecutes a civil penalty action. An agency attorney shall not include the Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation, or any attorney on the staff of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation who advises the FAA decisionmaker regarding an initial decision or any appeal to the FAA decisionmaker or who is supervised in

that action by a person who provides such advice in a civil penalty action.

Attorney means a person licensed by a state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States to practice law or appear before the courts of that state or territory.

Complaint means a document issued by an agency attorney alleging a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, or the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, which has been filed with the hearing docket after a hearing has been requested pursuant to § 13.16(e)(3) or § 13.16(g)(3) of this part.

FAA decisionmaker means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, acting in the capacity of the decisionmaker on appeal, or any person to whom the Administrator has delegated the Administrator's decisionmaking authority in a civil penalty action. As used in this subpart, the FAA decisionmaker is the official authorized to issue a final decision and order of the Administrator in a civil penalty action.

Mail includes U.S. certified mail, U.S. registered mail, or use of an overnight express courier service.

Order assessing civil penalty means an order issued by an agency attorney, or an initial decision issued by an administrative law judge that is not appealed to the FAA decisionmaker, that directs a person to pay a civil penalty.

Party means the agency attorney, or the respondent named in a complaint.

Personal delivery includes hand-delivery or use of a contract or express messenger service. "Personal delivery" does not include the use of Government interoffice mail service.

Pleading means a complaint, an answer, and any amendment of these documents permitted under this subpart.

Properly addressed means a document that shows an address contained in FAA records, a residential, business, or other address submitted by a person on any document provided by this subpart, or any other address shown by other reasonable and available means.

Respondent means a person to whom a civil penalty is directed and who has received a complaint.

§ 13.203 Separation of functions.

(a) Civil penalty proceedings, including hearings, shall be prosecuted by an agency attorney.

(b) An FAA employee engaged in the performance of investigative or

prosecutorial functions in a civil penalty action shall not, in that case or a factually-related case, participate or give advice in a decision by the administrative law judge or by the FAA decisionmaker on appeal, except as counsel or a witness in the public proceedings.

(c) The Chief Counsel, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation, or attorneys on the staff of the Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation will advise the FAA decisionmaker regarding an initial decision or any appeal of that civil penalty action to the FAA decisionmaker.

§ 13.204 Appearances and rights of parties.

(a) Any party may appear and be heard in person.

(b) Any party may be accompanied, represented, or advised by an attorney or representative designated by the party and may be examined by that attorney or representative in any proceeding governed by this subpart. An attorney or representative who represents a party may file a notice of appearance in the action, in the manner provided in § 13.210 of this subpart, and shall serve a copy of the notice of appearance on each party, in the manner provided in § 13.211 of this subpart, before participating in any proceeding governed by this subpart. The attorney or representative shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the attorney or representative in the notice of appearance.

(c) Any person may request a copy of a document upon payment of reasonable costs. A person may keep an original document, data, or evidence, with the consent of the administrative law judge, by substituting a legible copy of the document for the record.

§ 13.205 Administrative law judges.

(a) *Powers of an administrative law judge.* In accordance with the rules of this subpart, an administrative law judge may:

- (1) Give notice of, and hold, prehearing conferences and hearings;
- (2) Administer oaths and affirmations;
- (3) Issue subpoenas authorized by law and issue notices of deposition requested by the parties;
- (4) Rule on offers of proof;
- (5) Receive relevant and material evidence;
- (6) Regulate the course of the hearing in accordance with the rules of this subpart;
- (7) Hold conferences to settle or to simplify the issues by consent of the parties;

(8) Dispose of procedural motions and requests; and

(9) Make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and issue an initial decision.

(b) *Limitations on the power of the administrative law judge.* The administrative law judge shall not issue an order of contempt, award costs to any party, or impose any sanction not specified in this subpart. If the administrative law judge imposes any sanction not specified in this subpart, a party may file an interlocutory appeal of right with the FAA decisionmaker pursuant to § 13.219(c)(4) of this subpart. This section does not preclude an administrative law judge from issuing an order that bars a person from a specific proceeding based on a finding of obstreperous or disruptive behavior in that specific proceeding.

(c) *Disqualification.* The administrative law judge may disqualify himself or herself at any time. A party may file a motion, pursuant to § 13.218(f)(6), requesting that an administrative law judge be disqualified from the proceedings.

§ 13.206 Intervention.

(a) Any person who has a statutory right to participate in the proceedings shall be allowed to intervene in the proceedings by the administrative law judge.

(b) In all other cases, the administrative law judge shall not allow any person to intervene in any proceeding governed by this subpart.

§ 13.207 Certification of documents.

(a) *Signature required.* The attorney of record, the party, or the party's representative shall sign each document tendered for filing with the hearing docket clerk, the administrative law judge, the FAA decisionmaker on appeal, or served on each party.

(b) *Effect of signing a document.* By signing a document, the attorney of record, the party, or the party's representative certifies that the attorney or party has read the document and, based on reasonable inquiry and to the best of the attorney's or party's knowledge, information, and belief, the document is:

- (1) Consistent with these rules;
- (2) Warranted by existing law or that a good faith argument exists for extension, modification, or reversal of existing law; and
- (3) Not unreasonable or unduly burdensome or expensive, not made to harass any person, not made to cause unnecessary delay, not made to cause needless increase in the cost of the

proceedings, or for any other improper purpose.

(c) *Sanctions.* If the attorney of record, the party, or the party's representative signs a document in violation of this section, the administrative law judge or the FAA decisionmaker shall:

- (1) Strike the pleading signed in violation of this section;
- (2) Strike the request for discovery or the discovery response signed in violation of this section and preclude further discovery by the party;
- (3) Deny the motion or request signed in violation of this section;
- (4) Exclude the document signed in violation of this section from the record;
- (5) Dismiss the interlocutory appeal and preclude further appeal on that issue by the party who filed the appeal until an initial decision has been entered on the record; or
- (6) Dismiss the appeal of the administrative law judge's initial decision to the FAA decisionmaker.

§ 13.208 Complaint.

(a) The agency attorney shall serve the original complaint on the person requesting the hearing.

(b) The agency attorney shall file the complaint, attaching a copy of the request for a hearing, and shall suggest a location for the hearing, with the hearing docket clerk not later than 20 days after receipt of a person's request for hearing.

(c) If the agency attorney and the person requesting the hearing do not agree on the location for the hearing, the hearing docket clerk shall assign a hearing location near the place where the incident occurred.

§ 13.209 Answer.

(a) *Writing required.* A person who receives a complaint shall file a written answer to the complaint, or a motion pursuant to § 13.218(f)(1-4) of this subpart, not later than 30 days after service of the complaint. The answer may be in the form of a letter but must be dated and signed by the person responding to the complaint. An answer may be typewritten or may be legibly handwritten.

(b) *Filing and address.* A person filing an answer shall personally deliver or mail the answer for filing with the hearing docket clerk to the Hearing Docket, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Room 924A, Washington, DC 20591, Attention: Hearing Docket Clerk.

(c) *Contents.* A person filing an answer shall include a brief statement of the relief requested by the person in the answer. The person shall include

specifically any affirmative defense in the answer that the person intends to assert at the hearing.

(d) *Specific denial of allegations required.* A person filing an answer shall admit, deny, or state that the person is without sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny each allegation in each numbered paragraph of the complaint. A general denial of the complaint is deemed a failure to file an answer. Any statement or allegation contained in the complaint that is not specifically denied in the answer is deemed an admission of the truth of that allegation.

(e) *Service.* A person filing an answer shall comply with the service requirements of § 13.211 of this subpart.

(f) *Failure to file answer.* A person's failure to file an answer without good cause is deemed an admission of the truth of each allegation contained in the complaint and an order assessing civil penalty shall be issued.

§ 13.210 Filing of documents.

(a) *Address and method of filing.* A person tendering a document for filing shall personally deliver or mail the signed original and one copy of each document to the Hearing Docket, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Room 924A, Washington, DC 20591, Attention: Hearing Docket Clerk. After an administrative law judge has been assigned to the proceedings, a person shall personally deliver or mail the signed original of each document to the hearing docket clerk and shall serve a copy of each document on each party and the administrative law judge.

(b) *Date of filing.* A document shall be considered to be filed on the date of personal delivery; or if mailed, the mailing date shown on the certificate of service, the date shown on the postmark if there is no certificate of service, or other mailing date shown by other evidence if there is no certificate of service or postmark.

(c) *Form.* Each document shall be typewritten or legibly handwritten.

(d) *Contents.* Unless otherwise specified in this subpart, each document must contain a short, plain statement of the facts on which the person's case rests and a brief statement of the action requested in the document.

§ 13.211 Service of documents.

(a) *General.* A person shall serve a copy of any document filed with the Hearing Docket on the administrative law judge and on each party at the time of filing.

(b) *Type of service.* A person may serve documents by personal delivery or by mail.

(c) *Certificate of service.* A person may attach a certificate of service to a document tendered for filing with the hearing docket clerk. A certificate of service shall consist of a statement, dated and signed by the person filing the document, that the document was personally delivered or mailed to each party on a specific date.

(d) *Date of service.* The date of service shall be the date of personal delivery; or if mailed, the mailing date shown on the certificate of service, the date shown on the postmark if there is no certificate of service, or other mailing date shown by other evidence if there is no certificate of service or postmark.

(e) *Additional time after service by mail.* Whenever a party has a right or a duty to act or to make any response within a prescribed period after service by mail, or on a date certain after service by mail, 5 days shall be added to the prescribed period.

(f) *Service by the administrative law judge.* The administrative law judge shall serve a copy of each document including, but not limited to, notices of prehearing conferences and hearings, rulings on motions, decisions, and orders, upon each party to the proceedings by personal delivery or by mail.

(g) *Valid service.* A document that was properly addressed, was sent in accordance with this subpart, and that was returned, that was not claimed, or that was refused, is deemed to have been served in accordance with this subpart. The service shall be considered valid as of the date and the time that the document was deposited with a contract or express messenger, the document was mailed, or personal delivery of the document was refused.

(h) *Presumption of service.* There shall be a presumption of service where a party or a person, who customarily receives mail, or receives it in the ordinary course of business, at either the person's residence or the person's principal place of business, acknowledges receipt of the document.

§ 13.212 Computation of time.

(a) This section applies to any period of time prescribed or allowed by this subpart, by notice or order of the administrative law judge, or by any applicable statute.

(b) The date of an act, event, or default, after which a designated time period begins to run, is not included in a computation of time under this subpart.

(c) The last day of a time period is included in a computation of time unless

it is a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday. If the last day of the time period is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the time period runs until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

§ 13.213 Extension of time.

(a) *Oral requests.* The parties may reasonably agree to extend the time for filing a document under this subpart. If the parties agree, the administrative law judge shall grant one extension of time to each party. The party seeking the extension of time shall submit a draft order to the administrative law judge to be signed by the administrative law judge and filed with the hearing docket clerk. The administrative law judge may grant additional oral requests for an extension of time where the parties agree to the extension.

(b) *Written motion.* A party shall file a written motion for an extension of time with the administrative law judge not later than 7 days before the document is due unless good cause for the late filing is shown. A party filing a written motion for an extension of time shall serve a copy of the motion on each party. The administrative law judge may grant the extension of time if good cause for the extension is shown.

(c) *Failure to rule.* If the administrative law judge fails to rule on a written motion for an extension of time by the date the document was due, the motion for an extension of time is deemed granted for no more than 20 days after the original date the document was to be filed.

§ 13.214 Amendment of pleadings.

(a) *Filing and service.* A party shall file the amendment with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the amendment on all parties to the proceeding.

(b) *Time.* A party shall file an amendment to a complaint or an answer within the following:

(1) Not later than 15 days before the scheduled date of a hearing, a party may amend a complaint or an answer without the consent of the administrative law judge.

(2) Less than 15 days before the scheduled date of a hearing, the administrative law judge may allow amendment of a complaint or an answer only for good cause shown in a motion to amend.

(c) *Responses.* The administrative law judge shall allow a reasonable time, but not more than 20 days from the date of filing, for other parties to respond if an amendment to a complaint, answer, or

other pleading has been filed with the administrative law judge.

§ 13.215 Withdrawal of complaint or request for hearing.

At any time before or during a hearing, the agency attorney may withdraw a complaint or a party may withdraw a request for a hearing without the consent of the administrative law judge. If the agency attorney withdraws the complaint or a party withdraws the request for a hearing and the answer, the administrative law judge shall dismiss the proceedings in this subpart with prejudice.

§ 13.216 Waivers.

Waivers of any rights provided by statute or regulation shall be in writing or by stipulation made at a hearing and entered into the record. The parties shall set forth the precise terms of the waiver and any conditions.

§ 13.217 Joint procedural or discovery schedule.

(a) *General.* The parties may agree to submit a schedule for filing all prehearing motions, a schedule for conducting discovery in the proceedings, or a schedule that will govern all prehearing motions and discovery in the proceedings.

(b) *Form and content of schedule.* If the parties agree to a joint procedural or discovery schedule, one of the parties shall file the joint schedule with the administrative law judge, setting forth the dates to which the parties have agreed, and shall serve a copy of the joint schedule on each party.

(1) The joint schedule may include, but need not be limited to, requests for discovery, any objections to discovery requests, responses to discovery requests to which there are no objections, submission of prehearing motions, responses to prehearing motions, exchange of exhibits to be introduced at the hearing, and a list of witnesses that may be called at the hearing.

(2) Each party shall sign the original joint schedule to be filed with the administrative law judge.

(c) *Time.* The parties may agree to submit all prehearing motions and responses and may agree to close discovery in the proceedings under the joint schedule within a reasonable time before the date of the hearing, but not later than 15 days before the hearing.

(d) *Order establishing joint schedule.* The administrative law judge shall approve the joint schedule filed by the parties. One party shall submit a draft order establishing a joint schedule to the

administrative law judge to be signed by the administrative law judge and filed with the hearing docket clerk.

(e) *Disputes.* The administrative law judge shall resolve disputes regarding discovery or disputes regarding compliance with the joint schedule as soon as possible so that the parties may continue to comply with the joint schedule.

(f) *Sanctions for failure to comply with joint schedule.* If a party fails to comply with the administrative law judge's order establishing a joint schedule, the administrative law judge may direct that party to comply with a motion to discovery request or, limited to the extent of the party's failure to comply with a motion or discovery request, the administrative law judge may:

(1) Strike that portion of a party's pleadings;

(2) Preclude prehearing or discovery motions by that party;

(3) Preclude admission of that portion of a party's evidence at the hearing, or

(4) Preclude that portion of the testimony of that party's witnesses at the hearing.

§ 13.218 Motions.

(a) *General.* A party applying for an order or ruling not specifically provided in this subpart shall do so by motion. A party shall comply with the requirements of this section when filing a motion with the administrative law judge. A party shall serve a copy of each motion on each party.

(b) *Form and contents.* A party shall state the relief sought by the motion and the particular grounds supporting that relief. If a party has evidence in support of a motion, the party shall attach any supporting evidence, including affidavits, to the motion.

(c) *Filing of motions.* A motion made prior to the hearing must be in writing. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties or for good cause shown, a party shall file any prehearing motion, and shall serve a copy on each party, not later than 30 days before the hearing. Motions introduced during a hearing may be made orally on the record unless the administrative law judge directs otherwise.

(d) *Answers to motions.* Any party may file an answer, with affidavits or other evidence in support of the answer, not later than 10 days after service of a written motion on that party. When a motion is made during a hearing, the answer may be made at the hearing on the record, orally or in writing, within a reasonable time determined by the administrative law judge.

(e) *Rulings on motions.* The administrative law judge shall rule on all motions as follows:

(1) *Discovery motions.* The administrative law judge shall resolve all pending discovery motions not later than 10 days before the hearing.

(2) *Prehearing motions.* The administrative law judge shall resolve all pending prehearing motions not later than 7 days before the hearing. If the administrative law judge issues a ruling or order orally, the administrative law judge shall serve a written copy of the ruling or order, within 3 days, on each party. In all other cases, the administrative law judge shall issue rulings and orders in writing and shall serve a copy of the ruling or order on each party.

(3) *Motions made during the hearing.* The administrative law judge may issue rulings and orders on motions made during the hearing orally. Oral rulings or orders on motions must be made on the record.

(f) *Specific motions.* A party may file the following motions with the administrative law judge:

(1) *Motion to dismiss for insufficiency.* A party may file a motion to dismiss the complaint for insufficiency instead of an answer. If the administrative law judge denies the motion to dismiss the complaint for insufficiency, the party who received the complaint shall file an answer not later than 10 days after service of the administrative law judge's denial of the motion. A motion to dismiss the complaint for insufficiency must show that the complaint fails to state a violation of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, or a violation of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, or a rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder.

(2) *Motion to dismiss.* A party may file a motion to dismiss a complaint instead of an answer, specifying the grounds for dismissal.

(i) If a motion to dismiss is not granted, the respondent shall file an answer with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the answer on each party not later than 10 days after service of the administrative law judge's ruling or order on the motion to dismiss.

(ii) If the administrative law judge grants a motion to dismiss and terminates the proceedings without a hearing, the agency attorney may file an appeal pursuant to § 13.233 of this subpart. If the administrative law judge grants a motion to dismiss in part, the agency attorney may appeal the

administrative law judge's decision to dismiss part of the complaint under the provisions of § 13.219(c) of this subpart. If required by the decision on appeal, the respondent shall file an answer with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the answer on each party not later than 10 days after service of the decision on appeal.

(3) *Motion for more definite statement.* A party may file a motion for more definite statement of any pleading which requires a response under this subpart. A party shall set forth, in detail, the indefinite or uncertain allegations contained in a complaint or response to any pleading and shall submit the details that the party believes would make the allegation or response definite and certain.

(i) *Complaint.* A party may file a motion requesting a more definite statement of the allegations contained in the complaint instead of an answer. If the administrative law judge grants the motion, and the agency attorney does not supply a more definite statement not later than 15 days after service of the order granting the motion, the administrative law judge shall strike the allegations in the complaint to which the motion is directed. If the administrative law judge denies the motion, the respondent shall file an answer with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the answer on each party not later than 10 days after service of the order of denial.

(ii) *Answer.* A party may file a motion requesting a more definite statement if an answer fails to clearly respond to the allegations in the complaint. If the administrative law judge grants the motion, the respondent shall supply a more definite statement not later than 15 days after service of the ruling on the motion. If the respondent fails to supply a more definite statement, the administrative law judge shall strike those statements in the answer to which the motion is directed. A party's failure to supply a more definite statement is deemed a failure to answer and the unanswered allegations in the complaint are deemed admitted.

(4) *Motion to strike.* Any party may make a motion to strike any insufficient allegation or defense, or any redundant, immaterial, or irrelevant matter in a pleading. A party shall file a motion to strike with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy on each party before a response is required under this subpart or, if a response is not required, not later than 10 days after service of the pleading.

(5) *Motion for decision.* A party may make a motion for decision, regarding all or any part of the proceedings, at any

time before the administrative law judge has issued an initial decision in the proceedings. The administrative law judge shall grant a party's motion for decision if the pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, admissions, matters that the administrative law judge has officially noticed, or evidence introduced during the hearing show that there is no genuine issue of material fact and that the party making the motion is entitled to a decision as a matter of law. The party making the motion for decision has the burden of showing that there is no genuine issue of material fact disputed by the parties.

(6) *Motion for disqualification.* A party may file a motion for disqualification with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy on each party. A party may file the motion at any time after the administrative law judge has been assigned to the proceedings but shall make a motion before the administrative law judge files an initial decision in the proceedings.

(i) *Motion and supporting affidavit.* A party shall state the grounds for disqualification, including, but not limited to, personal bias, pecuniary interest, or other factors showing disqualification, in the motion for disqualification. A party shall submit an affidavit with the motion for disqualification that sets forth, in detail, the matters alleged to constitute grounds for disqualification.

(ii) *Answer.* A party shall respond to the motion for disqualification not later than 5 days after service of the motion for disqualification.

(iii) *Decision on motion for disqualification.* The administrative law judge shall render a decision on the motion for disqualification not later than 15 days after the motion has been filed. If the administrative law judge finds that the motion for disqualification and supporting affidavit show a basis for disqualification, the administrative law judge shall withdraw from the proceedings immediately. If the administrative law judge finds that disqualification is not warranted, the administrative law judge shall deny the motion and state the grounds for the denial on the record. If the administrative law judge fails to rule on a party's motion for disqualification within 15 days after the motion has been filed, the motion is deemed granted.

(iv) *Appeal.* A party may appeal the administrative law judge's denial of the motion for disqualification in accordance with § 13.219 of this subpart.

§ 13.219 Interlocutory appeals.

(a) *General.* Unless otherwise provided in this subpart, a party may

not appeal a ruling or decision of the administrative law judge to the FAA decisionmaker until the initial decision has been entered on the record. A decision or order of the FAA decisionmaker on the interlocutory appeal does not constitute a final order of the Administrator for the purposes of judicial appellate review under section 1006 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended.

(b) *Interlocutory appeal for cause.* If a party files a written request for an interlocutory appeal for cause with the administrative law judge, or orally requests an interlocutory appeal for cause, the proceedings are stayed until the administrative law judge issues a decision on the request. If the administrative law judge grants the request, the proceedings are stayed until the FAA decisionmaker issues a decision on the interlocutory appeal. The administrative law judge shall grant an interlocutory appeal for cause if a party shows that delay of the appeal would be detrimental to the public interest or would result in undue prejudice to any party.

(c) *Interlocutory appeals of right.* If a party notifies the administrative law judge of an interlocutory appeal of right, the proceedings are stayed until the FAA decisionmaker issues a decision on the interlocutory appeal. A party may file an interlocutory appeal with the FAA decisionmaker, without the consent of the administrative law judge, before an initial decision has been entered in the case of:

(1) A ruling or order by the administrative law judge barring a person from the proceedings;

(2) Failure of the administrative law judge to dismiss the proceedings in accordance with § 13.215 of this subpart;

(3) A ruling or order by the administrative law judge in violation of § 13.205(b) of this subpart; and

(4) A ruling by the administrative law judge granting, in part, a respondent's motion to dismiss a complaint pursuant to § 13.218(f)(2)(ii).

(d) *Procedure.* A party shall file a notice of interlocutory appeal, with supporting documents, with the FAA decisionmaker and the hearing docket clerk, and shall serve a copy of the notice and supporting documents on each party and the administrative law judge, not later than 3 days after the administrative law judge's decision forming the basis of the appeal. A party shall file a reply brief, if any, with the FAA decisionmaker and serve a copy of the reply brief on each party, not later than 10 days after service of the appeal brief. If the FAA decisionmaker does not

issue a decision on the interlocutory appeal or does not seek additional information within 10 days of the filing of the appeal, the stay of the proceeding is dissolved. The FAA decisionmaker shall render a decision on the interlocutory appeal, on the record and as a part of the decision in the proceedings, within a reasonable time after receipt of the interlocutory appeal.

(e) The FAA decisionmaker may reject frivolous, repetitive, or dilatory appeals, and may issue an order precluding one or more parties from making further interlocutory appeals in a proceeding in which there have been frivolous, repetitive, or dilatory interlocutory appeals.

§ 13.220 Discovery.

(a) *Initiation of discovery.* Any party may initiate discovery described in this section, without the consent or approval of the administrative law judge, at any time after a complaint has been filed in the proceedings.

(b) *Methods of discovery.* The following methods of discovery are permitted under this section: depositions on oral examination or written questions of any person; written interrogatories directed to a party; requests for production of documents or tangible items to any person; and requests for admission by a party. A party is not required to file written interrogatories and responses, requests for production of documents or tangible items and responses, and requests for admission and response with the administrative law judge or the hearing docket clerk. In the event of a discovery dispute, a party shall attach a copy of these documents in support of a motion made under this section.

(c) *Service on the agency.* A party shall serve each discovery request directed to the agency or any agency employee on the agency attorney of record.

(d) *Time for response to discovery requests.* Unless otherwise directed by this subpart or agreed by the parties, a party shall respond to a request for discovery, including filing objections to a request for discovery, not later than 30 days of service of the request.

(e) *Scope of discovery.* Subject to the limits on discovery set forth in paragraph (f) of this section, a party may discover any matter that is not privileged and that is relevant to the subject matter of the proceeding. A party may discover information that relates to the claim or defense of any party including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition, and location of any document or other tangible item and the identity and

location of any person having knowledge of discoverable matter. A party may discover facts known, or opinions held, by an expert who any other party expects to call to testify at the hearing. A party has no ground to object to a discovery request on the basis that the information sought would not be admissible at the hearing if the information sought during discovery is reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

(f) *Limiting discovery.* The administrative law judge shall limit the frequency and extent of discovery permitted by this section if a party shows that:

- (1) The information requested is cumulative or repetitious;
- (2) The information requested can be obtained from another less burdensome and more convenient source;
- (3) The party requesting the information has had ample opportunity to obtain the information through other discovery methods permitted under this section; or
- (4) The method or scope of discovery requested by the party is unduly burdensome or expensive.

(g) *Confidential orders.* A party or person who has received a discovery request for information that is related to a trade secret, confidential or sensitive material, competitive or commercial information, proprietary data, or information on research and development, may file a motion for a confidential order with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the motion for a confidential order on each party.

- (1) The party or person making the motion must show that the confidential order is necessary to protect the information from disclosure to the public.
- (2) If the administrative law judge determines that the requested material is not necessary to decide the case, the administrative law judge shall preclude any inquiry into the matter by any party.
- (3) If the administrative law judge determines that the requested material may be disclosed during discovery, the administrative law judge may order that the material may be discovered and disclosed under limited conditions or may be used only under certain terms and conditions.
- (4) If the administrative law judge determines that the requested material is necessary to decide the case and that a confidential order is warranted, the administrative law judge shall provide:

- (i) An opportunity for review of the document by the parties off the record;
- (ii) Procedures for excluding the information from the record; and

(iii) Order that the parties shall not disclose the information in any manner and the parties shall not use the information in any other proceeding.

(h) *Protective orders.* A party or a person who has received a request for discovery may file a motion for protective order with the administrative law judge and shall serve a copy of the motion for protective order on each party. The party or person making the motion must show that the protective order is necessary to protect the party or the person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense. As part of the protective order, the administrative law judge may:

- (1) Deny the discovery request;
- (2) Order that discovery be conducted only on specified terms and conditions, including a designation of the time or place for discovery or a determination of the method of discovery; or
- (3) Limit the scope of discovery or preclude any inquiry into certain matters during discovery.

(i) *Duty to supplement or amend responses.* A party who has responded to a discovery request has a duty to supplement or amend the response, as soon as the information is known, as follows:

- (1) A party shall supplement or amend any response to a question requesting the identity and location of any person having knowledge of discoverable matters.
- (2) A party shall supplement or amend any response to a question requesting the identity of each person who will be called to testify at the hearing as an expert witness and the subject matter and substance of that witness' testimony.
- (3) A party shall supplement or amend any response that was incorrect when made or any response that was correct when made but is no longer correct, accurate, or complete.

(j) *Depositions.* The following rules apply to depositions taken pursuant to this section:

- (1) *Form.* A deposition shall be taken on the record and reduced to writing. The person being deposed shall sign the deposition unless the parties agree to waive the requirement of a signature.
- (2) *Administration of oaths.* Within the United States, or a territory or possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, a party shall take a deposition before a person authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or authorized by the law of the place where the examination is held. In foreign countries, a party shall take a deposition in any manner

allowed by the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*.

(3) *Notice of deposition.* A party shall serve a notice of deposition, stating the time and place of the deposition and the name and address of each person to be examined, on the person to be deposed, on the administrative law judge, on the hearing docket clerk, and on each party not later than 7 days before the deposition. A party may serve a notice of deposition less than 7 days before the deposition only with consent of the administrative law judge. If a subpoena *duces tecum* is to be served on the person to be examined, the party shall attach a copy of the subpoena *duces tecum* that describes the materials to be produced at the deposition to the notice of deposition.

(4) *Use of depositions.* A party may use any part or all of a deposition at a hearing authorized under this subpart only upon a showing of good cause. The deposition may be used against any party who was present or represented at the deposition or who had reasonable notice of the deposition.

(k) *Interrogatories.* A party shall not serve more than 30 interrogatories to each other party. Each subpart of an interrogatory shall be counted as a separate interrogatory.

(1) A party shall answer each interrogatory separately and completely in writing and under oath. A party's attorney may sign the response to the interrogatories if the attorney has verification of authority to sign from the party. If a party objects to an interrogatory, the party shall state the objection and the reasons for the objection.

(2) A party shall file a motion for leave to serve additional interrogatories on a party with the administrative law judge before serving additional interrogatories on a party. The administrative law judge shall grant the motion only if the party shows good cause for the party's failure to inquire about the information previously and that the information cannot reasonably be obtained using less burdensome discovery methods or be obtained from other sources.

(l) *Requests for admission.* A party may serve a written request for admission of the truth of any matter within the scope of discovery under this section or the authenticity of any document described in the request. A party shall set forth each request for admission separately. A party shall serve copies of documents referenced in the request for admission unless the documents have been provided or are reasonably available for inspection and copying.

(1) *Time.* A party's failure to respond to a request for admission, in writing and signed by the attorney or the party, not later than 30 days after service of the request, is deemed an admission of the truth of the statement or statements contained in the request for admission. The administrative law judge may determine that a failure to respond to a request for admission is not deemed an admission of the truth if a party shows that the failure was due to circumstances beyond the control of the party or the party's attorney.

(2) *Response.* A party may object to a request for admission and shall state the reasons for objection. A party may specifically deny the truth of the matter or describe the reasons why the party is unable to truthfully deny or admit the matter. If a party is unable to deny or admit the truth of the matter, the party shall show that the party has made reasonable inquiry into the matter or that the information known to, or readily obtainable by, the party is insufficient to enable the party to admit or deny the matter. A party may admit or deny any part of the request for admission. If the administrative law judge determines that a response does not comply with the requirements of this rule or that the response is insufficient, the matter is deemed admitted.

(3) *Effect of admission.* Any matter admitted or deemed admitted under this section is conclusively established for the purpose of the hearing and appeal.

(m) *Motion to compel discovery.* A party may make a motion to compel discovery if a person refuses to answer a question during a deposition, a party fails or refuses to answer an interrogatory, if a person gives an evasive or incomplete answer during a deposition or when responding to an interrogatory, or a party fails or refuses to produce documents or tangible items. During a deposition, the proponent of a question may complete the deposition or may adjourn the examination before making a motion to compel if a person refuses to answer.

(n) *Failure to comply with a discovery order or order to compel.* If a party fails to comply with a discovery order or an order to compel, the administrative law judge, limited to the extent of the party's failure to comply with the discovery order or motion to compel, may:

- (1) Strike that portion of a party's pleadings;
- (2) Preclude prehearing or discovery motions by that party;
- (3) Preclude admission of that portion of a party's evidence at the hearing; or
- (4) Preclude that portion of the testimony of that party's witnesses at the hearing.

§ 13.221 Notice of hearing.

(a) *Notice.* The administrative law judge shall give each party at least 60 days notice of the date and time of the hearing.

(b) *Date and time of the hearing.* The administrative law judge to whom the proceedings have been assigned shall set a reasonable date and time for the hearing. The administrative law judge shall consider the need for discovery and any joint procedural or discovery schedule submitted by the parties when determining the hearing date.

(c) *Location of the hearing.* After assignment of an administrative law judge to the proceedings, a party may file a motion to change the location of the hearing or the administrative law judge on his own motion may change the location of the hearing. The administrative law judge shall give due regard to where the majority of the witnesses reside or work, the convenience of the parties, and whether the location is served by a scheduled air carrier.

(d) *Earlier hearing.* With the consent of the administrative law judge, the parties may agree to hold the hearing on an earlier date than the date specified in the notice of hearing.

§ 13.222 Evidence.

(a) *General.* A party is entitled to present the party's case or defense by oral, documentary, or demonstrative evidence, to submit rebuttal evidence, and to conduct any cross-examination that may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts.

(b) *Admissibility.* A party may introduce any oral, documentary, or demonstrative evidence in support of the party's case or defense. The administrative law judge shall admit any oral, documentary, or demonstrative evidence introduced by a party but shall exclude irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence.

(c) *Hearsay evidence.* Hearsay evidence is admissible in proceedings governed by this subpart. The fact that evidence submitted by a party is hearsay goes only to the weight of the evidence and does not affect its admissibility.

§ 13.223 Standard of proof.

The administrative law judge shall issue an initial decision or shall rule in a party's favor only if the decision or ruling is supported by, and in accordance with, the reliable, probative, and substantial evidence contained in the record. In order to prevail, the party with the burden of proof shall prove the party's case or defense by a

preponderance of reliable, probative, and substantial evidence.

§ 13.224 Burden of proof.

(a) Except in the case of an affirmative defense, the burden of proof is on the agency.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by statute or rule, the proponent of a motion, request, or order has the burden of proof.

(c) A party who has asserted an affirmative defense has the burden of proving the affirmative defense.

§ 13.225 Offer of proof.

A party whose evidence has been excluded by a ruling of the administrative law judge may offer the evidence for the record on appeal.

§ 13.226 Public disclosure of evidence.

(a) The administrative law judge may order that any information contained in the record be withheld from public disclosure. Any person may object to disclosure of information in the record by filing a written motion to withhold specific information with the administrative law judge and serving a copy of the motion on each party. The party shall state the specific grounds for nondisclosure in the motion.

(b) The administrative law judge shall grant the motion to withhold information in the record if, based on the motion and any response to the motion, the administrative law judge determines that disclosure would be detrimental to aviation safety, disclosure would not be in the public interest, or that the information is not otherwise required to be made available to the public.

§ 13.227 Expert or opinion witnesses.

An employee of the agency may not be called as an expert or opinion witness, for any party other than the agency, in any proceeding governed by this subpart. An employee of a respondent may not be called by an agency attorney as an expert or opinion witness for the agency in any proceeding governed by this subpart to which the respondent is a party.

§ 13.228 Subpoenas.

(a) *Request for subpoena.* A party may obtain a subpoena to compel the attendance of a witness at a deposition or hearing or to require the production of documents or tangible items from the hearing docket clerk. The hearing docket clerk shall deliver the subpoena, signed by the hearing docket clerk or an administrative law judge but otherwise in blank, to the party. The party shall complete the subpoena, stating the title of the action and the date and time for the witness' attendance or production of

documents or items. The party who obtained the subpoena shall serve the subpoena on the witness.

(b) *Motion to quash or modify the subpoena.* Any person upon whom a subpoena has been served may file a motion to quash or modify the subpoena with the administrative law judge at or before the time specified in the subpoena for compliance. The applicant shall describe, in detail, the basis for the application to quash or modify the subpoena including, but not limited to, a statement that the testimony or the documents or tangible evidence is not relevant to the proceeding, that the subpoena is not reasonably tailored to the scope of the proceeding, or that the subpoena is unreasonable and oppressive. A motion to quash or modify the subpoena will stay the effect of the subpoena pending a decision by the administrative law judge on the motion.

(c) *Enforcement of subpoena.* Upon a showing that a person has failed or refused to comply with a subpoena, a party may apply to the local Federal district court to seek judicial enforcement of the subpoena in accordance with section 1004 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended.

§ 13.229 Witness fees.

(a) *General.* Unless otherwise authorized by the administrative law judge, the party who applies for a subpoena to compel the attendance of a witness at a deposition or hearing, or the party at whose request a witness appears at a deposition or hearing, shall pay the witness fees described in this section.

(b) *Amount.* Except for an FAA employee who appears at the direction of the agency, a witness who appears at a deposition or hearing is entitled to the same fees and mileage expenses as are paid to a witness in a court of the United States in comparable circumstances.

§ 13.230 Record.

(a) *Exclusive record.* The transcript of all testimony in the hearing, all exhibits received into evidence, and all motions, applications, requests, and rulings shall constitute the exclusive record for decision of the proceedings and the basis for the issuance of any orders in the proceeding. Any proceedings regarding the disqualification of an administrative law judge shall be included in the record.

(b) *Examination and copying of record.* Any person may examine the record at the Hearing Docket, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 924A,

Washington, DC 20591. Any person may have a copy of the record after payment of reasonable costs to copy the record.

§ 13.231 Argument before the administrative law judge.

(a) *Arguments during the hearing.* During the hearing, the administrative law judge shall give the parties a reasonable opportunity to present arguments on the record supporting or opposing motions, objections, and rulings if the parties request an opportunity for argument. The administrative law judge may request written arguments during the hearing if the administrative law judge finds that submission of written arguments would be reasonable.

(b) *Final oral argument.* At the conclusion of the hearing and before the administrative law judge issues an initial decision in the proceedings, the parties are entitled to submit oral proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, exceptions to rulings of the administrative law judge, and supporting arguments for the findings, conclusions, or exceptions. At the conclusion of the hearing, a party may waive final oral argument.

(c) *Posthearing briefs.* The administrative law judge may request written posthearing briefs before the administrative law judge issues an initial decision in the proceedings if the administrative law judge finds that submission of written arguments would be reasonable. If a party files a written posthearing brief, the party shall include proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, exceptions to rulings of the administrative law judge, and supporting arguments for the findings, conclusions, or exceptions. The administrative law judge shall give the parties a reasonable opportunity, not more than 30 days after receipt of the transcript, to prepare and submit the briefs.

§ 13.232 Initial decision.

(a) *Contents.* The administrative law judge shall issue an initial decision at the conclusion of the hearing. In each oral or written decision, the administrative law judge shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law, and the grounds supporting those findings and conclusions, upon all material issues of fact, the credibility of witnesses, the applicable law, any exercise of the administrative law judge's discretion, the amount of any civil penalty found appropriate by the administrative law judge, and a discussion of the basis for any order issued in the proceedings. The

administrative law judge is not required to provide a written explanation for rulings on objections, procedural motions, and other matters not directly relevant to the substance of the initial decision. If the administrative law judge refers to any previous unreported or unpublished initial decision, the administrative law judge shall make copies of that initial decision available to all parties and the FAA decisionmaker.

(b) *Oral decision.* Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, at the conclusion of the hearing, the administrative law judge shall issue the initial decision and order orally on the record.

(c) *Written decision.* The administrative law judge may issue a written initial decision not later than 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing or submission of the last posthearing brief if the administrative law judge finds that issuing a written initial decision is reasonable. The administrative law judge shall serve a copy of any written initial decision on each party.

(d) *Order assessing civil penalty.* The initial decision issued by the administrative law judge shall become an order assessing civil penalty if the administrative law judge finds that an alleged violation occurred and determines that a civil penalty, in an amount found appropriate by the administrative law judge, is warranted.

§ 13.233 Appeal from initial decision.

(a) *Notice of appeal.* A party may appeal the initial decision, and any decision not previously appealed pursuant to § 13.219, by filing a notice of appeal with the FAA decisionmaker. A party shall file the notice of appeal with the Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 924A, Washington, DC 20591, Attention: Appellate Docket Clerk. A party shall file the notice of appeal not later than 10 days after entry of the oral initial decision on the record or service of the written initial decision on the parties and shall serve a copy of the notice of appeal on each party.

(b) *Issues on appeal.* A party may appeal only the following issues:

- (1) Whether each filing of fact is supported by a preponderance of reliable, probative, and substantial evidence;
- (2) Whether each conclusion of law is made in accordance with applicable law, precedent, and public policy; and
- (3) Whether the administrative law judge committed any prejudicial errors during the hearing that supports the appeal.

(c) *Perfecting an appeal.* Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, a party shall perfect an appeal, not later than 50 days after entry of the oral initial decision on the record or service of the written initial decision on the party, by filing an appeal brief with the FAA decisionmaker.

(1) *Extension of time by agreement of the parties.* The parties may agree to extend the time for perfecting the appeal with the consent of the FAA decisionmaker. If the FAA decisionmaker grants an extension of time to perfect the appeal, the appellate docket clerk shall serve a letter confirming the extension of time on each party.

(2) *Written motion for extension.* If the parties do not agree to an extension of time for perfecting an appeal, a party desiring an extension of time may file a written motion for an extension with the FAA decisionmaker and shall serve a copy of the motion on each party. The FAA decisionmaker may grant an extension if good cause for the extension is shown in the motion.

(d) *Appeal briefs.* A party shall file the appeal brief with the FAA decisionmaker and shall serve a copy of the appeal brief on each party.

(1) A party shall set forth, in detail, the party's specific objections to the initial decision or rulings in the appeal brief. A party also shall set forth, in detail, the basis for the appeal, the reasons supporting the appeal, and the relief requested in the appeal. If the party relies on evidence contained in the record for the appeal, the party shall specifically refer to the pertinent evidence contained in the transcript in the appeal brief.

(2) The FAA decisionmaker may dismiss an appeal, on the FAA decisionmaker's own initiative or upon motion of any other party, where a party has filed a notice of appeal but fails to perfect the appeal by timely filing an appeal brief with the FAA decisionmaker.

(e) *Reply brief.* Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, any party may file a reply brief with the FAA decisionmaker not later than 35 days after the appeal brief has been served on that party. The party filing the reply brief shall serve a copy of the reply brief on each party. If the party relies on evidence contained in the record for the reply, the party shall specifically refer to the pertinent evidence contained in the transcript in the reply brief.

(1) *Extension of time by agreement of the parties.* The parties may agree to extend the time for filing a reply brief with the consent of the FAA decisionmaker. If the FAA

decisionmaker grants an extension of time to file the reply brief, the appellate docket clerk shall serve a letter confirming the extension of time on each party.

(2) *Written motion for extension.* If the parties do not agree to an extension of time for filing a reply brief, a party desiring an extension of time may file a written motion for an extension with the FAA decisionmaker and shall serve a copy of the motion on each party. The FAA decisionmaker may grant an extension if good cause for the extension is shown in the motion.

(f) *Other briefs.* The FAA decisionmaker may allow any person to submit an *amicus curiae* brief in an appeal of an initial decision. A party may not file more than one appeal brief or reply brief. A party may petition the FAA decisionmaker, in writing, for leave to file an additional brief and shall serve a copy of the petition on each party. The party may not file the additional brief with the petition. The FAA decisionmaker may grant leave to file an additional brief if the party demonstrates good cause for allowing additional argument on the appeal. The FAA decisionmaker will allow a reasonable time for the party to file the additional brief.

(g) *Number of copies.* A party shall file the original appeal brief or the original reply brief, and two copies of the brief, with the FAA decisionmaker.

(h) *Oral argument.* The FAA decisionmaker has sole discretion to permit oral argument on the appeal. On the FAA decisionmaker's own initiative or upon written motion by any party, the FAA decisionmaker may find that oral argument will contribute substantially to the development of the issues on appeal and may grant the parties an opportunity for oral argument.

(i) *Waiver of objections on appeal.* If a party fails to object to any alleged error regarding the proceedings in an appeal or a reply brief, the party waives any objection to the alleged error. The FAA decisionmaker is not required to consider any objection in an appeal brief or any argument in the reply brief if a party's objection is based on evidence contained on the record and the party does not specifically refer to the pertinent evidence from the record in the brief.

(j) *FAA decisionmaker's decision on appeal.* The FAA decisionmaker will review the briefs on appeal and the oral argument, if any, to determine if the administrative law judge committed prejudicial error in the proceedings or that the initial decision should be affirmed, modified, or reversed. The

FAA decisionmaker may affirm, modify, or reverse the initial decision, make any necessary findings, or may remand the case for any proceedings that the FAA decisionmaker determines may be necessary.

(1) The FAA decisionmaker may raise any issue, on the FAA decisionmaker's own initiative, that is required for proper disposition of the proceedings. The FAA decisionmaker will give the parties a reasonable opportunity to submit arguments on the new issues before making a decision on appeal. If an issue raised by the FAA decisionmaker requires the consideration of additional testimony or evidence, the FAA decisionmaker will remand the case to the administrative law judge for further proceedings and an initial decision related to that issue. If an issue raised by the FAA decisionmaker is solely an issue of law or the issue was addressed at the hearing but was not raised by a party in the briefs on appeal, a remand of the case to the administrative law judge for further proceedings is not required but may be provided in the discretion of the FAA decisionmaker.

(2) The FAA decisionmaker will issue the final decision and order of the Administrator on appeal in writing and will serve a copy of the decision and order on each party.

(3) A final decision and order of the Administrator after appeal is precedent in any other civil penalty action. Any issue, finding or conclusion, order, ruling, or initial decision of an administrative law judge that has not been appealed to the FAA decisionmaker is not precedent in any other civil penalty action.

§ 13.234 Petition to reconsider or modify a final decision and order of the FAA decisionmaker on appeal.

(a) *General.* Any party may petition the FAA decisionmaker to reconsider or

modify a final decision and order issued by the FAA decisionmaker on appeal from an initial decision. A party shall file a petition to reconsider or modify with the FAA decisionmaker not later than 30 days after service of the FAA decisionmaker's final decision and order on appeal and shall serve a copy of the petition on each party. The FAA decisionmaker will not reconsider or modify an initial decision and order issued by an administrative law judge that has not been appealed by any party to the FAA decisionmaker.

(b) *Form and number of copies.* A party shall file a petition to reconsider or modify, in writing, with the FAA decisionmaker. The party shall file the original petition with the FAA decisionmaker and shall serve a copy of the petition on each party.

(c) *Contents.* A party shall state briefly and specifically the alleged errors in the final decision and order on appeal, the relief sought by the party, and the grounds that support the petition to reconsider or modify.

(1) If the petition is based, in whole or in part, on allegations regarding the consequences of the FAA decisionmaker's decision, the party shall describe these allegations and shall describe, and support, the basis for the allegations.

(2) If the petition is based, in whole or in part, on new material not previously raised in the proceedings, the party shall set forth the new material and include affidavits of prospective witnesses and authenticated documents that would be introduced in support of the new material. The party shall explain, in detail, why the new material was not discovered through due diligence prior to the hearing.

(d) *Repetitious and frivolous petitions.* The FAA decisionmaker will not consider repetitious or frivolous petitions. The FAA decisionmaker may

summarily dismiss repetitious or frivolous petitions to reconsider or modify.

(e) *Reply petitions.* Any other party may reply to a petition to reconsider or modify, not later than 10 days after service of the petition on that party, by filing a reply with the FAA decisionmaker. A party shall serve a copy of the reply on each party.

(f) *Effect of filing petition.* Unless otherwise ordered by the FAA decisionmaker, filing of a petition pursuant to this section will not stay or delay the effective date of the FAA decisionmaker's final decision and order on appeal and shall not toll the time allowed for judicial review.

(g) *FAA decisionmaker's decision on petition.* The FAA decisionmaker has sole discretion to grant or deny a petition to reconsider or modify. The FAA decisionmaker will grant or deny a petition to reconsider modify within a reasonable time after receipt of the petition or receipt of the reply petition, if any. The FAA decisionmaker may affirm, modify, or reverse the final decision and order on appeal, or may remand the case for any proceedings that the FAA decisionmaker determines may be necessary.

§ 13.235 Judicial review of final decision and order.

A person may seek judicial review of a final decision and order of the Administrator as provided in section 1006 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended. A party seeking judicial review of a final decision and order shall file a petition for review not later than 60 days after the final decision and order has been served on the party.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 17, 1990.
Gregory S. Walden,
Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 90-9173 Filed 4-17-90; 12:23 pm]

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Federal Register

Friday
April 20, 1990

Part V

Department of Health and Human Services

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Parts 412 and 413

Medicare Program, Fiscal Year 1990; Mid-year Changes to the Inpatient Hospital Prospective Payment System; Final Rule With Request for Comments

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Parts 412 and 413

[BPD-672-FC]

RIN 0938-AE73

Medicare Program, Fiscal Year 1990; Mid-Year Changes to the Inpatient Hospital Prospective Payment System

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Final rule with comment period.

SUMMARY: This final rule with comment implements several provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 that affect Medicare payment for inpatient hospitals and that, in general, take effect on April 1, 1990. This final rule also responds to comments received concerning the changes we made in 1989 in implementing provisions of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 concerning adjustments applicable to prospective payment hospitals and to the target amounts of hospitals and units excluded from the prospective payment system due to the elimination of the day limitation on covered inpatient hospital days. We are making additional changes in these provisions to take into account the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Repeal Act of 1989, and changes in the law made by the Family Support Act of 1988, which clarified the criteria for adjusting target amounts and changed the date for implementing that provision.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This final rule is effective on April 1, 1990. We refer the reader to section VI.A. of this preamble for a discussion of specific provisions that apply to specific periods.

Comment Date: Comments will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on June 19, 1990.

ADDRESSES. Mail comments to the following address:

Health Care Financing Administration,
Department of Health and Human
Services, Attention: BPD-672-FC, P.O.
Box 26676, Baltimore, Maryland 21207.

If you prefer, you may deliver your comments to one of the following addresses:

Room 309-G, Hubert Humphrey
Building, 200 Independence Ave., SW,
Washington, DC.

Room 132, East High Rise Building, 6325
Security Boulevard, Baltimore,
Maryland.

Due to staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept facsimile

(FAX) copies of comments. In commenting, please refer to file code BPD-672-FC. Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, beginning approximately three weeks after publication of this document, in Room 309-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC, on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (phone: 202-245-7890).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Wynn, (301) 966-4529.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Summary of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989

On December 19, 1989, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (Pub. L. 101-239) was enacted. The provisions of sections 6003 (c), (e), (f), and (h)(3), 6011, 6015(a), and 6205(a) of Public Law 101-239 made the following changes that affect Medicare payments to hospitals:

- For discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990, hospitals located in rural areas with more than 100 beds, or those that are classified as sole community hospitals, can now qualify for a disproportionate share adjustment if the hospital has a disproportionate patient percentage of at least 30 percent. In addition, the disproportionate share payment adjustments for qualifying hospitals are increased.

- For cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990, the payment methodology for sole community hospitals is revised. In addition, the change made in the September 1, 1989 prospective payment system final rule (54 FR 36480) that went into effect on October 1, 1989 to allow any rural hospital to qualify as a sole community hospital if it is more than 35 miles from another hospital is ratified.

- For cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990 and ending on or before March 31, 1993, a special payment method under the prospective payment system for Medicare-dependant small rural hospitals is established

- For discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990, the wage index applicable to rural counties whose hospitals are deemed urban is revised.

- For discharges occurring on or after June 19, 1990 and before December 19, 1991, prospective payment hospitals receive an additional payment for the cost of administering blood clotting factors to hemophiliacs who are hospital inpatients.

- For cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990, excluded hospitals and units may be assigned a

new base period for purposes of the rate-of-increase limits if it would be more representative of the reasonable and necessary costs of inpatient services.

- For cost reporting periods beginning on or after December 19, 1989 and before the later of October 1, 1990 or the date the Secretary issues new regulations concerning payment for nursing and allied health education, the costs incurred by hospitals that meet certain criteria for training nursing students enrolled in a hospital-based nursing school are to be paid on the basis of reasonable cost.

Our implementation of these provisions are described below in section II. of this preamble. In section III.D. of this final rule, we respond to comments received on the September 30, 1988 prospective payment system final rule with comment (53 FR 38476) concerning the changes we made in implementing two provisions of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-360) concerning adjustments to the rates, weights, and outlier thresholds applicable to prospective payment hospitals and the target amounts applicable to hospitals and units excluded from the prospective payment system due to the elimination of the day limitation on covered inpatient hospital days.

In that section we also discuss changes in law made by the Family Support Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-485), which clarified the criteria for adjusting target amounts and changed the date for implementing that provision, as well as the termination of these catastrophic provisions effective January 1, 1990 because of the enactment of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Repeal Act of 1989 (Pub. L. 101-234).

II. Provisions of the Final Rule Resulting From the Enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989

A. Wage Index

Under section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act, for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1988, hospitals in certain rural counties adjacent to one or more Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are considered to be located in one of the adjacent MSAs if certain standards are met. Under this provision, as a part of the September 30, 1988 prospective payment system final rule (53 FR 38476), we classified the wage data for those rural areas as if the hospitals in those areas were located in the adjacent MSAs and recomputed the wage index values for the affected MSAs and rural areas.

Because inclusion of the wage data from rural hospitals that are considered to be located in an adjacent MSA under section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act resulted in the reduction of the wage index values of several MSAs and rural areas, Congress enacted section 8403(a) of the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-647). Under that provision, which added a new section 1886(d)(8)(C) to the Act, if the inclusion of wage data from rural hospitals now considered to be located in an urban area results in a reduction of the wage value for the affected MSA or rural area, then the wage index values for those affected areas are determined as if section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act had not been enacted. The wage index value for those rural counties with hospitals that were deemed urban are determined on a county-specific basis as if the county were a separate urban area. This provision was implemented as part of the September 1, 1989 prospective payment system final rule (54 FR 36476).

For some hospitals in counties redesignated as urban under the provisions of section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act, the application of county-specific wage index values for Federal fiscal year (FY) 1990 resulted in lower total prospective payments than what those hospitals had received in FY 1989 because those hospitals were now subject to a lower wage index value. For some redesignated hospitals such as those that had a county-specific wage index value lower than the Statewide rural wage index, the decrease in payment was significant. In fact, the county-specific wage index value was sufficiently low in some cases that the hospitals redesignated as urban received lower payments than when they had been designated as rural.

In order to address the adverse impact on certain redesignated hospitals that resulted from the implementation of section 8403(a) of Public Law 100-647, Congress, in section 6003(h) of Pub. L. 101-239, revised the methodology for applying the wage index to hospitals affected by section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act.

Under section 6003(h)(3) of Public Law 101-239, section 1886(d)(8)(C) of the Act was revised with respect to discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990. The provision revises the application of the wage index to redesignated hospitals based on the hypothetical impact the wage data from these hospitals would have on the wage index value of the MSA to which they have been redesignated.

• If including the wage data for the redesignated hospitals reduces the MSA wage index value by one percentage

point or less, the MSA wage index value applies to the redesignated hospitals deemed to be part of that MSA. The MSA wage index value is determined exclusive of the wage data for the designated hospitals.

• If including the wage data for the redesignated hospitals reduces the MSA wage index value by more than one percentage point on an MSA's wage index, the wage index is applied separately to the MSA and to the hospitals deemed to be part of that MSA. In this case, the redesignated hospitals will continue to have their wage index determined on a county-specific basis, as if their county were a separate urban area. However, the wage index for such county will not be less than the Statewide rural wage index.

• Rural areas whose wage index values would be reduced by excluding the data for redesignated hospitals will continue to have their wage index calculated as if no redesignation had occurred. Those rural areas whose wage index values increased as a result of excluding the wage data for the redesignated hospitals will continue to have their wage index calculated exclusive of the redesignated hospitals.

The counties subject to the wage index of the MSA to which their hospitals were redesignated (that is, their impact on the MSA wage index would be one percentage point or less) are set forth in table 2a of the addendum to this document. The counties subject to a separate urban area wage index (that is, their impact on the MSA wage index would be greater than one percentage point) with a minimum wage index value equal to the Statewide rural wage index are set forth in tables 2b and 2c of the addendum to this document. A few counties are not included in the table even though they meet the criteria to permit hospitals to be redesignated. They are not included in the tables because there are no prospective payment hospitals in those counties.

B. Payments to Sole Community Hospitals (Section 412.92)

Under the prospective payment system, special payment protections are provided to sole community hospitals (SCHs). Prior to enactment of Public Law 101-239, section 1886(d)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act defined an SCH as a hospital that, by reason of factors such as isolated location, weather conditions, travel conditions, or absence of other hospitals (as determined by the Secretary), is the sole source of inpatient hospital services reasonably available to Medicare beneficiaries. The regulations that set forth the criteria that a hospital must meet to be classified as

an SCH are at § 412.92(a). To be classified as an SCH, a hospital must either have been designated as an SCH prior to the beginning of the prospective payment system or it must be located in a rural area and meet one of the following requirements:

- It is located more than 35 miles from other like hospitals.
- It is located between 25 and 35 miles from other like hospitals, and it—
 - Serves at least 75 percent of inpatients in its service area; or
 - Has fewer than 50 beds and would qualify on the basis of serving 75 percent of its area's inpatients except that some patients seek specialized care unavailable at the hospital.
- It is located between 15 and 35 miles from other like hospitals and isolated by local topography or extreme weather for 30 days in each 2 out of 3 years.

SCHs are currently paid a blended rate based on 75 percent of the hospital-specific rate and 25 percent of the Federal regional rate. For cost reporting periods beginning before October 1, 1990, an SCH is eligible for a payment adjustment if, for reasons beyond its control, it experiences a decline in volume of greater than 5 percent compared to its preceding cost reporting period. (This adjustment is also available to a hospital that could qualify as an SCH but chooses not to be paid as an SCH.) In addition, an SCH is eligible for an adjustment to its payments if it adds new services or facilities. SCHs are also exempt from the percentage reductions in reasonable cost payments for capital-related costs, as provided in section 1886(g)(3) of the Act.

Sections 6003(e) (1) and (2) of Public Law 101-239, which amend section 1886(d)(5) of the Act, make changes in the qualifying criteria and payment methodology for SCHs. In this final rule, we are addressing only those changes that require immediate implementation (that is, by April 1, 1990).

We first wish to note that section 6003(e)(3) of Public Law 101-239 specifically states that any hospital classified as an SCH as of the date of enactment of Public Law 101-239 (December 19, 1989) will continue to be so classified regardless of whether it meets the revised criteria resulting from changes made in implementing section 6003(e)(1) of Public Law 101-239.

Section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)(I) of the Act incorporates the mileage standard that was established by regulation effective October 1, 1989. (See the September 1, 1989 prospective payment system final rule (54 FR 36480).) That is, section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)(I) of the Act states that

a hospital can qualify for SCH status if it is more than 35 road miles from another hospital. We believe that in adding this provision to the law, Congress intended to ratify our regulations and we are, therefore, not altering any of the policies or definitions regarding the mileage criterion that we have previously adopted. That is, we believe that the mileage should continue to be measured by the shortest route over improved roads maintained by any local, State, or Federal government entity for public use. Also, we see no evidence that Congress intended that we revise our current policy requiring that the distance between hospitals be measured to the nearest "like" hospital as defined in § 412.92(c)(2). We consider "like" hospitals to be those hospitals furnishing short-term acute care. That is, a hospital may not qualify for an SCH classification on the grounds that neighboring hospitals do not offer comparable specialty services. Rural hospitals that are located fewer than 35 road miles from the nearest like hospital can continue to qualify for SCH classification by meeting the criteria at § 412.92 (a)(2) or (a)(3). The application procedures to be followed, the documentary evidence that must be submitted, and the effective date for qualification remain the same as specified in existing regulations.

Section 1886(d)(5)(D) of the Act also requires that the Secretary publish standards to determine whether a hospital meets the criteria for classification as an SCH based on the time required for an individual to travel to the nearest alternative source of appropriate inpatient care. We plan to propose these standards in the proposed rule concerning FY 1991 changes to the inpatient hospital prospective payment system and FY 1991 rates.

Section 6003(e) of Public Law 101-239 also revised the payment methodology for hospitals classified as SCHs effective with hospital cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990. As of that date, as provided in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(i) of the Act, SCHs will be paid based on whichever of the following rates yields the greatest aggregate payment for the cost reporting period: the Federal national rate applicable to the hospital, the updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 1982 cost per discharge, or the updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 1987 cost per discharge.

The SCH's fiscal intermediary will determine for each cost reporting period which of the payment options will yield the highest rate of payment. Payments will automatically be made at the

highest rate using the best data available at the time of the intermediary's determination. However, it may not be possible for the fiscal intermediary to determine in advance precisely which of the rates will yield the highest payment by year's end. This is because, in many instances, the hospital's FY 1987 cost report has not yet been audited and, in all instances, it is not possible to forecast the October 1, 1990 update factor for the Federal rates, outlier payments, the amount of the disproportionate share adjustment, or the indirect medical education adjustment, all of which are applicable only to payment based on the Federal rate. Therefore, the intermediary will make its determination based on what appears to yield the highest payment amount.

A final adjustment will be made at the close of the cost reporting period to determine precisely which of the three payment rates yielded the highest payment to the hospital. The settlement will take into account the adjustments described above. This is the same procedure currently in effect for both disproportionate share adjustments and indirect medical education adjustments.

We considered making the payment methodology decision completely prospective and paying SCHs on the highest of the three rates without taking into account changes in the Federal payment amounts during the hospital's cost reporting period. However, since we cannot prospectively determine with certainty which rate will yield the highest payment, the hospital may not be paid prospectively on the basis of the rate that would ultimately result in the greatest payment. To pay each hospital the correct amount, we will make a final adjustment at the end of the cost reporting period. We believe this is the only way to ensure that each hospital actually receives the highest payment available. We note that a new determination of which payment rate yields the highest total payment will be made at the start of each cost reporting period.

If a hospital disagrees with the intermediary's determination regarding the final amount of program payment to which it is entitled under this provision, it has the right to appeal the intermediary's decision in accordance with the criteria in subpart R of part 405 of the regulations, which concern provider payment determinations and appeals.

Section 1886(b)(3)(C) following (ii) of the Act provides that an SCH, for purposes of determining its payment rate based on the higher of the Federal

rate or its hospital-specific rate, may substitute the hospital's cost reporting period, if any, beginning during FY 1987 for the FY 1982 base cost reporting period if that substitution results in an increase in the hospital's rate.

In calculating a hospital's hospital-specific rate based on its FY 1987 cost reporting period, we will, to the extent possible, use the same methodology as we did to calculate the hospital-specific rate based on a FY 1982 cost reporting period. That methodology is set forth in §§ 412.71 through 412.73 and was discussed in detail in several prospective payment system documents published in the *Federal Register* (September 1, 1983 (48 FR 3977); January 3, 1984 (49 FR 259); and June 1, 1984 (49 FR 23010)).

The FY 1987 cost reporting periods are those 12-month or longer cost reporting periods ending on or after September 30, 1987, and before September 30, 1988. If the hospital's last cost reporting period ending before September 30, 1988, is for a period that is less than 12 months, we will use the hospital's most recent 12-month or longer cost reporting period ending before the short period report.

If a hospital has no cost reporting period beginning in FY 1987, it will not have a hospital-specific rate based on FY 1987. The hospital will not be allowed to substitute any other base period for the FY 1987 base period. This policy is based on the language of section 1886(b)(3)(C) following (ii) of the Act, which states that the hospital will be allowed to substitute its cost reporting period (if any) beginning in FY 1987. Therefore, if there is no FY 1987 cost reporting period, there will be no substitution of any other cost reporting period.

For each SCH, the intermediary will calculate a hospital-specific rate based on the hospital's FY 1987 cost report as follows:

- Determine the hospital's total allowable Medicare inpatient operating cost, as stated on the FY 1987 cost report.
- Divide the total Medicare operating cost by the number of Medicare discharges in the cost reporting period to determine the FY 1987 base period cost per case.
- In order to take into consideration the hospital's individual case-mix, the base year cost per case is divided by the hospital's case-mix index applicable to the FY 1987 cost reporting period. This step is necessary to standardize the hospital's base period cost for case mix. This is consistent with our treatment of FY 1982 base-period costs per case. A hospital's case mix is computed based

on its Medicare patient discharges subject to DRG-based payment. (The individual case-mix index values to be used in calculating the FY 1987 hospital-specific rate are set forth in Table 3d of this document.)

The fiscal intermediary will inform each SCH of its hospital-specific rate based on its FY 1987 cost reporting period within 180 days after the start of its cost reporting period beginning on or after April 1, 1990 (the first period to which the new payment methodology applies).

Our original policy on modification of FY 1982 base-period costs, as stated in § 412.72, provided that the intermediary may adjust base-period costs to take into account additional costs recognized as allowable costs for the hospital's base period through administrative action and judicial review, but only on a prospective basis. That is, any adjustment made to base-period costs would be effective with the first day of the hospital's cost reporting period beginning on or after the date of the decision to adjust the costs and would not be applied on a retroactive basis.

However, since we formulated our policy on modification to base-period costs, a decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in *Georgetown University Hospital v. Bowen*, 862 F.2d 323, (D.C. Cir., 1988), has invalidated that policy. In that decision, the court rejected the principles and procedures established by Medicare regulations that authorize automatic prospective adjustments to the hospital-specific rate to reflect newly recognized base-period costs. On January 26, 1989, HCFA issued a ruling (HCFAR 89-1-1) that the hospital-specific rate based on FY 1982 will be revised retroactively to reflect additional base-period costs that are or will be recognized as the result of—

- A final, nonappealable court judgment; or
- The administrative actions defined in § 412.72(a)(3)(i), that is:

—A reopening and revision of the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement under §§ 405.1885 through 405.1889;

—A prehearing order or finding issued during the provider payment appeals process by the appropriate reviewing authority under § 405.1821 or § 405.1852 that resolved a matter at issue concerning the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement;

—An affirmation, modification, or reversal of a Provider Reimbursement Review Board decision by the Administrator of HCFA under § 405.1875 that resolved a matter at

issue in the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement; or

—An administrative or judicial review decision under § 405.1831, § 405.1871, or § 405.1877 that is final and no longer subject to review under applicable lower regulations by a higher reviewing authority and that resolved a matter of issue in the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement.

We are adopting these policies regarding the FY 1982 base-period costs for the FY 1987 base-period costs. Any time the FY 1987 base-period costs are subject to modification for one of the reasons set forth above, the adjustment will be retroactive to the time of the intermediary's initial calculation of base-period costs. We are adding a new § 412.75 to describe calculations of a hospital-specific rate based on a FY 1987 base period.

In addition to the changes in qualifying criteria and payment methodology, the new section 1886(d)(5)(D) of the Act deleted the sunset date on the 5 percent volume decline adjustment, thus allowing SCHs to receive the adjustment indefinitely. (The sunset provision was in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act. Section 6003(c)(1) of Public Law 101-239 amended that provision and redesignated it as section 1886(d)(5)(D) of the Act.) We are amending § 412.92 (e) and (f) to reflect this change.

C. Disproportionate Share Adjustment (Section 412.106)

Section 1886(d)(5)(F) of the Act provides for additional payments to prospective payment hospitals that serve a disproportionate share of low-income patients. Under section 1886(d)(5)(F)(v) of the Act, and under section § 412.106(b) of the regulation, a hospital qualifies for a disproportionate share adjustment if during the hospital's cost reporting period, the hospital has a disproportionate patient percentage that is at least equal to—

- 15 percent for an urban hospital with 100 or more beds or a rural hospital with 500 or more beds;
- 40 percent for an urban hospital with fewer than 100 beds;
- 45 percent for a rural hospital with fewer than 500 beds.

Additionally, a hospital can qualify for a disproportionate share adjustment as defined under § 412.106(c)(2) if the hospital has 100 or more beds, is located in an urban area, and receives more than 30 percent of net inpatient revenues from State and local government sources for the care of indigent patients not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.

Section 6003(c)(2) of Public Law 101-239 adds an additional qualifying methodology under section 1886(d)(5)(F)(v) of the Act for certain rural hospitals beginning with discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990. That is, if a hospital located in a rural area has more than 100 beds, or is classified as a sole community hospital, and has a disproportionate patient percentage of a least 30 percent during its cost reporting period, the hospital will qualify for a disproportionate share adjustment.

Sections 1886(d)(5)(F) (iii) and (iv) of the Act define the allowable disproportionate share adjustments that are added to the Federal portion of Medicare prospective payments for those hospitals described in sections 1886(d)(5)(F) (i) and (v) of the Act that meet the disproportionate share qualifications. Currently those adjustments are—

- 2.5 percent plus one-half of the difference between the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage and 15 percent for urban hospitals with 100 or more beds and rural hospitals with 500 or more beds;
- 5 percent for urban hospitals with fewer than 100 beds;
- 4 percent for rural hospitals with fewer than 500 beds; and
- 25 percent for urban hospitals with 100 or more beds receiving more than 30 percent of net inpatient revenues from State and local government sources for the care of indigent patients.

In addition, sections 6003(c) (2) and (3) of Public Law 101-239 amended section 1886(d)(5)(F) of the Act, which concerns the payment methodology for determining disproportionate share payment adjustments effective with discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990. These changes provide for the following:

- The disproportionate share payment adjustment factor will be increased from 25 to 30 percent for a hospital that qualifies for a disproportionate share adjustment under § 412.106(c)(2), that is, the hospital has 100 or more beds, is located in an urban area, and receives more than 30 percent of net inpatient revenues from State and local government sources for the care of indigent patients not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.

• A hospital located in an urban area and having 100 or more beds, or a hospital located in a rural area and having 500 or more beds, with a disproportionate patient percentage of greater than 20.2 percent will receive a disproportionate share adjustment that will increase the DRG revenue by 5.62

percent plus 65 percent of the difference between its disproportionate patient percentage and 20.2 percent. If the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage is less than 20.2 percent, the hospital's DRG revenue will be increased by 2.5 percent plus 60 percent of the difference between its disproportionate patient percentage and 15 percent.

- A hospital located in a rural area that is classified as both a rural referral center and an SCH will receive a disproportionate share adjustment that will increase the Federal portion of the hospital's DRG revenue by the greater of 10 percent, or 4 percent plus 60 percent of the difference between the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage and 30 percent.

- A hospital located in a rural area and classified as a rural referral center will receive a disproportionate share adjustment that will increase the hospital's DRG revenue by 4 percent plus 60 percent of the difference between its disproportionate patient percentage and 30 percent.

- A hospital located in a rural area and classified as an SCH will receive a disproportionate share adjustment that will increase the Federal portion of the hospital's DRG revenue by 10 percent.

For a hospital with fewer than 100 beds located in an urban area, the disproportionate share adjustment will continue to be 5 percent. For a hospital with fewer than 500 beds located in a rural area, which is not classified as a rural referral center or sole community hospital, the disproportionate share adjustment will continue to be 4 percent.

D. Medicare-Dependent, Small Rural Hospitals (Section 412.108)

Section 6003(f) of Public Law 101-239, which added a new section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Act, creates a new category of hospitals eligible for a special payment adjustment under the prospective payment system. The adjustment is limited to Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals (MDHs) and is effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990 and ending on or before March 31, 1993. Section 1886(d)(5)(G)(iii) of the Act defines an MDH as any hospital that meets all of the following criteria:

- The hospital is located in a rural area.
- The hospital has 100 or fewer beds.
- The hospital is not classified as an SCH (as defined at § 412.92) at the same time that it is receiving payment under this provision.
- In the hospital's cost reporting period that began during FY 1987, not less than 60 percent of its inpatient days

or discharges were attributable to patients covered by Medicare Part A benefits.

The term "rural area" will be defined as it is for all other prospective payment special adjustments, that is, any area outside an urban area as provided under § 412.63(b). Thus, a hospital in a rural county that is redesignated as urban under section 1886(d)(8)(C) of the Act would not be considered to be located in a rural area for the purposes of eligibility as an MDH.

Similarly, for purposes of determining a hospital's bed size, we will use the same definition that is currently used for determining number of beds to calculate the indirect medical education adjustment, the disproportionate share adjustment, and the rural referral center adjustments. This definition, which is set forth at § 412.118(b), states that the number of beds in a hospital is determined by counting the number of available bed days during the hospital's cost reporting period, not including beds assigned to newborns, custodial care, and excluded distinct part units, and dividing that number by the number of days in the cost reporting period. Instructions for counting bed size for purposes of the indirect medical education adjustment as set forth in § 2405.3G of the Provider Reimbursement Manual (HCFA Pub. 15-1) will also be used for determining bed size for MDHs. (That is, beds used for purposes other than inpatient lodging, beds certified as long term, and temporary beds are not counted. However, beds in a temporarily closed wing or partially closed wing are counted if the wing can be immediately opened and the beds occupied.)

For determining whether at least 60 percent of the hospital's inpatient days or discharges were attributable to Medicare Part A beneficiaries, days and discharges will be counted from the hospital's 12-month or longer cost reporting period that ended on or after September 30, 1987 and before September 30, 1988. Only days and discharges from acute care inpatient hospital stays in the area of the hospital subject to the prospective payment system will be included.

If the hospital's last cost reporting period ending before September 30, 1988 is for a period that is less than 12 months, days and discharges will be counted for the hospital's most recent 12-month or longer cost reporting period ending before the short period report. We believe that, in calculating the Medicare utilization, we must use a complete 12-month cost reporting period in order to avoid the determination being made on a shorter period that

covers fewer months that might not be reflective of a hospital's full-year utilization due to seasonal fluctuations in Medicare inpatient load. This will also result in our using the same cost reporting period for qualification as we are using to determine the hospital's FY 1987 hospital-specific rate. (See discussion on SCH payment methodology in section II.B., above and MDH payment methodology below.) Days and discharges from swing beds will be counted if the discharges were for acute care inpatient hospital stays. The Medicare count of days and discharges will include only those days and inpatient stays for which benefits were payable under part A.

In order to not disadvantage hospitals that receive payment from a health maintenance organization (HMO) or a competitive medical plan (CMP) for inpatient care provided to Medicare Part A beneficiaries enrolled with the HMO or CMP, the days and discharges for those stays will be counted. These days and discharges do not appear on the hospital's cost report as Medicare days and discharges. Thus, the hospital should notify its intermediary and provide documentary evidence to support the number of days and discharges attributable to Medicare HMO or CMP enrollees that should be included in the intermediary's determination of the hospital's Medicare utilization.

Days and discharges from distinct part units excluded from the prospective payment system and from newborn nursery units will not be counted. These definitions of days and discharges will apply to both the numerator (Medicare patient count) and the denominator (total patient count) in determining whether a hospital was at least 60 percent Medicare-dependent during FY 1987. A hospital that does not have an FY 1987 cost reporting period will not be able to qualify for this special payment adjustment. Section 1886(d)(5)(iii) of the Act clearly provides that the hospital must have been 60 percent Medicare-dependent in its cost reporting period beginning in FY 1987.

In determining whether the 60 percent utilization standard is met for days or discharges, there will be no rounding of the utilization percentage. That is, if a hospital had 59.4 percent or 59.7 percent for days or discharges, it will not meet the criterion. The language of section 1886(d)(5)(G)(iii) of the Act is clear in stating that " * * * not less than 60 percent of inpatient days or discharges during the cost reporting period beginning in fiscal year 1987 were attributable to inpatients entitled to

benefits under Part A." (Emphasis added.) We realize that some hospitals may fail to meet the standard by a narrow margin and thus may not qualify as MDHs. Whenever numeric standards are established, there will be those entities that narrowly miss meeting them as well as those that narrowly succeed in meeting them. Regardless of the standards selected, this will be true. If we did allow exceptions to these criteria, they would have to be limited to certain tolerances that, again, some hospitals would fail to meet by a small margin.

As set forth in section 1886(d)(5)(G)(i) of the Act, hospitals meeting the above criteria will be paid based on whichever of the following rates yields the greatest aggregate payment for the cost reporting period: the national Federal rate applicable to the hospital, the updated hospital-specific rate using FY 1982 cost per discharge, or the updated hospital-specific rate using FY 1987 cost per discharge. (See discussion above in section II.B. for a detailed description of the calculation of a hospital-specific rate based on an FY 1987 base period.)

Hospitals do not need to take any action to qualify for this adjustment. The fiscal intermediary will determine for each cost reporting period which hospitals meet the criteria to qualify as MDHs prior to the start of the hospital's first cost reporting period beginning on or after April 1, 1990. In addition, similar to our treatment of SCHs, the intermediary will determine for each cost reporting period which of the payment options will yield the highest rate of payment to a hospital that qualifies as an MDH. Payments will automatically be made at the highest rate using the best data available at the time of the intermediary determination. However, as with SCHs, since it may not be possible for the fiscal intermediary to determine in advance precisely which of the rates will yield the highest payment by year's end, the intermediary will make its determination based on what appears to yield the highest rate. A final adjustment will be made at the close of the cost reporting period to determine precisely which of the three payment rates yielded the highest payment to the hospital.

At the time of the year-end settlement, an MDH's cost report will also be reviewed to ensure that it meets all the qualifying criteria, that is, that it is located in a rural area, that its bed count for the cost reporting period was 100 or fewer beds, and that it did not qualify as an SCH at the same time that it was receiving payments as an MDH.

For purposes of counting beds, the most recently submitted cost report will be used by the fiscal intermediary to determine whether a hospital meets this criterion provisionally. A final determination will be made each year based on its average number of beds during the cost reporting period. If a hospital's number of beds has changed since its most recent cost report was submitted and it believes it meets the criteria to qualify for this adjustment, the hospital must notify its intermediary and submit documentary evidence that its bed count is not above 100 beds.

As discussed above, the intermediary will use the hospital's FY 1987 cost report to determine if it meets the 60 percent Medicare dependency requirement on the basis of either days or discharges. If a hospital believes that the data in its cost report do not accurately reflect its Medicare utilization, it must notify its intermediary and submit verifiable documentation to prove that it meets the 60 percent Medicare-patient utilization requirement.

Whether the intermediary determines a hospital's classification as an MDH based on its own data or after a hospital's request, the classification will be effective with the start of the cost reporting period in which the hospital first meets all the qualifying criteria effective with the first cost reporting period that begins on or after April 1, 1990.

Each MDH will be informed of its FY 1987-based hospital-specific rate within 180 days after it qualifies as an MDH. That is, any hospital that the intermediary identifies as qualifying for MDH status will be notified of its hospital-specific rate within 180 days after the start of its cost reporting period beginning on or after April 1, 1990. However, any hospital that is identified as an MDH by the intermediary after the start of its cost reporting period will be notified of its hospital-specific rate within 180 days after the intermediary determines that it meets the qualifying criteria.

We note that there would be no advantage to a hospital currently approved as an SCH to give up that status to qualify for the MDH adjustment since the payment provisions for both are identical and MDHs are also entitled to the same volume adjustment protection (described below) that is afforded to SCHs. However, a hospital might wish to qualify for SCH status to take advantage of the higher rate for capital payments afforded to these hospitals. If a hospital that qualifies as an MDH also

meets the criteria to qualify for SCH status, it can switch to SCH status by submitting a request to its fiscal intermediary and demonstrating that it meets the qualifying criteria for SCH status under § 412.92.

A hospital's status as an MDH will be terminated on the same date as its SCH status becomes effective. As provided in § 412.92(b)(2), that status is effective 30 days after the date of HCFA's written notification of approval. We note that § 412.92(b)(2) currently states that HCFA's notification of approval is given to the hospital. However, the notification actually is sent to the intermediary. Therefore, we are revising § 412.92(b)(2) by deleting the words "to the provider."

Section 1886(d)(5)(G)(ii) of the Act also provides that a hospital meeting the MDH criteria is entitled to an additional adjustment if, due to circumstances beyond its control, its total number of discharges in a cost reporting period has decreased by more than 5 percent compared to the number of discharges in its preceding cost reporting period. Since this adjustment for a 5 percent reduction in discharges is identical to the criteria and adjustment currently provided for SCHs, we are incorporating the same criteria and adjustments into the regulation for MDHs.

Effective October 1, 1989, the responsibility for processing volume adjustments for SCHs was transferred from HCFA's central office to the Medicare fiscal intermediaries. Therefore, the review of and a determination on a request for this adjustment in payment for a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital will be made by the hospital's intermediary.

The basic test for evaluating a hospital's request for special payment due to circumstances beyond its control (in this case, a decrease in volume) is whether the decrease in volume is the result of an unusual situation or occurrence that is both externally imposed on the hospital and beyond its control. These situations may include, but are not limited to, strikes, fires, floods, inability to recruit essential physician staff, unusual, prolonged, and severe weather conditions that affect the local economy, the closing of a major employer in the hospital's service area resulting in decreased population or loss of inpatient health insurance coverage for large numbers of people, and similar unusual occurrences with substantial cost effects.

In comparing discharges, the number of discharges in a cost reporting period is compared to the number of discharges in the immediately preceding cost

reporting period. This policy is based on the language in section 1886(d)(5)(G)(ii) of the Act which states that this additional payment is available in the case of an MDH "that experiences, in a cost reporting period compared to the previous cost reporting period, a decrease of more than five percent in its total number of inpatient cases due to circumstances beyond its control * * *." (Emphasis added.) Thus, if a hospital experiences an occurrence that results in a sustained decrease in cases, an adjustment would be made for the cost reporting period in which the change occurred (if it were at least a 5 percent decrease), but the adjustment would not be made during subsequent periods unless discharges decrease by at least another 5 percent. Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Act does not allow us to add together volume declines occurring in more than one year to meet the 5 percent volume decrease requirement. Therefore, a hospital that has volume declines of 2 percent in one year and 4 percent in the next year is not entitled to an adjustment for either year. Under section 1886(d)(5)(G)(ii) of the Act, the payment adjustment is made to compensate the hospital for the fixed costs it incurs in the period in providing inpatient hospital services including the reasonable cost of maintaining necessary core staff and services for the one year period in which the volume decline occurs.

Fixed costs are defined as those over which management has no control. Many truly fixed costs, for example, rent, interest, and depreciation, are capital-related costs and are paid on a reasonable cost basis, regardless of patient volume. Variable costs, on the other hand, are those costs for items and services that vary directly with utilization. However, in a hospital setting, many costs are neither perfectly fixed nor perfectly variable, but are semifixed. Semifixed costs are those costs for items and services that are essential for the hospital to maintain operation but which will also vary with volume. For purposes of this adjustment, many semifixed costs, such as personnel-related costs, may be considered as fixed costs on a case-by-case basis. An adjustment will not be made for truly variable costs, such as food and laundry services.

In evaluating semifixed costs, such as personnel, the intermediary will consider the length of time the hospital has experienced a decrease in utilization. For a short period of time, most semifixed costs would be considered fixed. As the period of decreased utilization continues, we

would expect a cost-efficient hospital to take some action to reduce unnecessary expenses. Therefore, if a hospital does not reduce unnecessary expenses, we would not include such costs in determining the amount of the adjustment.

Section 1886(d)(5)(G)(ii) of the Act requires that the adjustment amount "fully compensate the hospital for the fixed costs it incurs in the period in providing inpatient hospital services, including the reasonable cost of maintaining necessary core staff and services." The intermediary will review the determination concerning core staff and services based on an individual hospital's needs and circumstances; for example, the intermediary will take into account the minimum staffing levels required by State agencies.

In addition, we believe that section 1886(d)(5)(G)(ii) makes it clear that a hospital that has continued to make a profit under the prospective payment system, even though there has been a decline of more than 5 percent in occupancy, is not entitled to receive a payment adjustment. A hospital that receives payments that are greater than the hospital's Medicare inpatient operating costs has been "fully compensated" for those costs by the prospective payment system. Consequently, we do not believe that any additional adjustment is warranted.

We recognize that some rural hospitals experiencing a volume decline may be having financial difficulties despite the fact that they have recovered their full Medicare inpatient operating costs under the prospective payment system. While it may be true that some hospitals are suffering financial hardship for any number of reasons, it is clearly inappropriate for Medicare to share in the costs attributable to non-Medicare beneficiaries. Therefore, we wish to clarify that any adjustment amounts granted to a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital may not exceed the difference between the hospital's Medicare inpatient operating costs and total payments made under the prospective payment system, including outlier payments, disproportionate share adjustment amounts and indirect medical education payment amounts.

An MDH that believes it qualifies for this adjustment must submit a written request to its Medicare fiscal intermediary. The requests must clearly document the circumstances causing the decrease in patient volume and the resulting effect on the hospital's costs. The request must show how the hospital reacted to the decline in volume, that is,

what actions it took to control costs once it became evident that the circumstances beyond its control would cause a decline in volume of patient service. The hospital's request must be submitted within 180 days from the date of the notice of amount of program reimbursement (NPR) for the cost reporting period in question. The intermediary will make its determination and notify the hospital within 180 days from the date it receives the hospital's request and all of the required documentation.

E. Ceiling on Rate of Hospital Cost Increases (Section 413.40)

Section 101 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA) (Pub. L. 97-248) added section 1886 to the Act to establish a ceiling on the allowable rate of increase for hospital inpatient operating costs. This ceiling still applies to hospitals and units excluded from the prospective payment system. Excluded hospital and hospital units under section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Act include psychiatric, rehabilitation, children's long-term hospitals, and psychiatric and rehabilitation distinct-part units of acute care hospitals. (Prior to FY 1988, alcohol/drug hospitals and distinct-part units were also excluded from the prospective payment system, but are now under the prospective payment system.)

These excluded hospitals and units receive payment for the inpatient hospital services they furnish on the basis of reasonable cost up to a ceiling. Under the rate of increase limits, an annual target amount (stated as inpatient operating cost per discharge) is set for each hospital, based on the hospital's own cost experience in its base year. This target amount is applied as a ceiling on the allowable costs per discharge for the hospital's next cost reporting period.

A hospital that has inpatient operating costs per discharge in excess of its target amount would be paid no more than that amount. However, a hospital that has inpatient operating costs less than its target amount would be paid its costs plus the lower of:

- (1) 50 percent of the difference between the inpatient operating cost per discharge and the target amount; or
- (2) 5 percent of the target amount.

Each hospital's target amount is adjusted annually, before the beginning of its cost reporting period, by an applicable target rate percentage for the 12-month period. The limit is based on an assumption that a provider's year-to-year inpatient operating costs should remain comparable to its base year,

except for inflation. Section 1886(b)(4)(A) of the Act gives the Secretary the authority to grant an exemption from, or an adjustment or exception to, the target rate of increase limit where events beyond the hospital's control or extraordinary circumstances create a distortion in the increase in costs.

Section 6015 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (Pub. L. 101-239) amended the target rate adjustment authority contained in section 1886(b)(4)(A) of the Act to provide that a hospital or excluded unit may be assigned a new base year in lieu of adjustments to the existing target rate. Thus, the assignment of a new base period is another mechanism HCFA may use, when appropriate, in determining the payment amount to an excluded hospital that has exceeded its ceiling in a cost reporting period. Section 6015 of Pub. L. 101-239 requires the Secretary to publish instructions by June 19, 1990 that set forth the application process under which hospitals may request target rate exemptions and adjustments.

1. Base Period

Section 1886(b)(3) of the Act provides for the use of a particular 12-month cost reporting period as the base period that serves as the basis for future periods' cost per case (that is, the target amount) after updating by the applicable percentage increase. The base period is the first cost reporting period of the excluded hospital or unit beginning before the period for which section 1886(b) of the Act applies. Section 1886(b)(5) of the Act gives the Secretary the authority to determine the applicable 12-month period to use as the base period for excluded hospitals or hospital units that have a cost reporting period that is other than 12 months in duration. This policy is set forth in regulations at § 413.40(b).

A hospital's fiscal intermediary calculates the target amount by dividing the allowable inpatient operating costs as defined under section 1886(a)(4) by the number of Medicare discharges in the base year cost reporting period. A hospital could incur costs that exceed its ceiling due to extraordinary circumstances such as flood, fire, earthquake or similar unusual occurrences, or some other factor that has caused a distortion in the comparison of the base year and the applicable cost reporting period. Under section 1886(b)(4)(A) of the Act, the Secretary can provide for an exception or adjustment to the hospital's ceiling in such circumstances. Section 413.40(f) of the regulations implement section 1886(b)(4) of the Act regarding

exemptions, adjustments and exceptions to the target rate of increase limit. The regulations provide that HCFA may adjust a hospital's operating costs considered in establishing cost per case, including both periods subject to the limit and the hospital's base periods, to take into account—

- Unusual costs due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the provider's control;
- Distortions in costs caused by a change in case mix as a result of the addition or discontinuation of services; or
- Factors such as a change in the inpatient hospital services that a hospital provides that could result in a significant distortion in the operating costs of inpatient hospital services. The adjustment may be made only if the hospital exceeds its limit for the cost reporting period and only to the extent the hospital's costs are reasonable, attributable to circumstances specified above, and verified by the intermediary.

The exceptions or adjustments we make to a hospital's target rate limit are most commonly for a particular problem in one cost reporting period, such as a hospital experiencing an increase in its Medicare average length of stay. This increase could cause a distortion in the comparison to its base year since the limit is calculated on a per discharge basis. If a hospital whose costs exceed the limit demonstrates that its increased costs are attributable to an average length of stay increase and that its costs are reasonable, we adjust the limit to recognize the increase in average length of stay over the base period.

In some situations, a permanent adjustment is made to a hospital's limit such as when a hospital adds a new and substantially different service. Such an addition would create the need for additional staff and also could result in treating a different kind of patient. However, only those costs associated with the addition of a new service would be included in the permanent adjustment made to the provider's rate-of-increase limit.

2. Assignment of a New Base Period

Section 6015(a) of Public Law 101-239 gives the Secretary authority to assign a new base period to a hospital if it is more representative of the reasonable and necessary costs of its inpatient services. We would authorize the assignment of a new base period only under limited circumstances and only when an adjustment cannot be accomplished through other provisions as discussed above. In order to justify the assignment of a new base period, a hospital must have a permanent,

substantial, and significant change in the nature of services provided that results in costs exceeding its rate-of-increase. An example of such a change would be a psychiatric institution that previously had only provided limited care to its patient population and then had changed the entire focus of its work to providing a comprehensive range of psychiatric services to its patients.

However, should a hospital experience a significant change in patient care services and its costs exceed the target rate-of-increase limit, the remedy will not automatically be the assignment of a new base period. A general increase in costs beyond the limit is not grounds for rebasing. As discussed above, if a hospital adds a new service that results in increased costs, a permanent adjustment may be made to the hospital's limit to alleviate the distortion created by the new service and total rebasing would not be warranted.

Another situation that could occur is that the hospital may have significantly changed its patient care services but all the costs incurred above the ceiling may not be reasonable and necessary. One area we give particular attention to in this respect is indirect patient costs, (for example, administrative and general costs, and operation of plant.) The increase in indirect costs are often the result of factors unrelated to patient services and therefore, are not included in any adjustments and would not be included if the assignment of a new base period were approved. Rather, we expect cases of this nature to result in a rebasing of direct patient care costs only.

F. Payment for Hemophilia Inpatients

Hemophilia, a blood disorder characterized by prolonged coagulation time, is caused by an inherited deficiency of a factor in plasma necessary for blood to clot. The discovery in 1964 of a cryoprecipitate rich in antihemophilic factor activity facilitated management of acute bleeding episodes. For purposes of this final rule, hemophilia is considered to encompass the following conditions: Factor VIII deficiency (classical hemophilia); Factor IX deficiency (also termed plasma thromboplastin component (PTC) or Christmas factor deficiency); and Von Willebrand's disease. The most common factors required by hemophiliacs to increase coagulation are Factor VIII and Factor IX; a small number of hemophiliacs have developed inhibitors to these factors and require special treatment.

The basis for therapy of bleeding episodes is transfusion of material containing sufficient factor to temporarily correct the specific defect. Whole blood is not used for this purpose; its use is restricted to restoration of blood volume following severe loss. Plasma with a high content of factor may be used but factor concentrates are the preferred method of treatment since the content of factor is known and the load on the blood volume is less. The widespread use of clotting factor concentrates has been associated with more frequent emergence of abnormalities in liver function test results and the transmission of hepatitis viruses to some persons with hemophilia. Manufacturers of the clotting factors continually pursue development of methods for purification in an attempt to decrease the risks associated with their use. The emergence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has added impetus to the development of new and safer methods of producing clotting factors. Efforts to maintain a safe blood supply have resulted in increased efforts to improve purification of coagulation factors.

A variety of methods currently exist to reduce and inactivate viruses in coagulation concentrates, and multiple variations exist within each category. Dry heating, pasteurization, suspension heating, vapor heating, use of solvent detergent, and monoclonal antibody purification are among the methods currently being used for viral inactivation.

With the new developments in viral inactivation and the production of purified clotting factors, there has also been a dramatic increase in the costs. Several factors have contributed to this increase. The industry has committed significant resources in research and development to perfect the purification process and assure a safe supply of coagulation factor. Changes in production processes resulting from new technology have significantly reduced the yield of coagulation factors from the donor pool; thus, more plasma is required to produce one unit of coagulation factor. Periodic shortages have also contributed to price increases. Rapidly changing new technologies resulting in new products entering the market have functioned to enhance treatment efficacy at an increased cost.

The Prospective Payment Commission (ProPAC) recently completed a study entitled "The Adequacy of Prospective Payment for Medicare Beneficiaries with Hemophilia." ProPAC determined that hemophilia patients were distributed

across several diagnostic-related groups (DRGs) and that patients with hemophilia had higher inpatient operating costs than other patients. However, while payments under the prospective payment system for these cases were slightly higher, the relative payment to cost ratios were lower. On October 2, 1989, ProPAC recommended to Congress implementation of a prospectively determined add-on payment for patients requiring the clotting factor, and that this payment should be determined on a per unit basis, based on a weighted average of the types of clotting factor available.

In response to ProPAC's recommendations and growing concern about increasing hospital costs for treating hemophiliacs, Congress enacted section 6011 of Public Law 101-239. That section amended section 1886(a)(4) of the Act to provide that prospective payment hospitals receive an additional payment for the costs of administering blood clotting factor to hemophiliacs who are hospital inpatients. The payment is to be based on a predetermined price per unit of the clotting factor multiplied by the number of units provided. Under section 6011 of Public Law 101-239, this add-on payment is effective for blood clotting factor furnished on or after June 19, 1990 and before December 19, 1991. In addition, section 6011 of Public Law 101-239, requires HCFA and ProPAC to develop and submit to Congress recommendations on how to pay for blood clotting factor. These recommendations are due not later than June 19, 1991.

We are establishing a price per unit of clotting factor based on the latest (1990) price listing available from the Drug Topics Red Book, the publication of pharmaceutical average wholesale prices. Although ProPAC recommended that we set an add-on payment amount for clotting factor based on a weighted average of the types of clotting factor available, we believe that it is more appropriate to set three separate add-on amounts, one for each of the three basic types of clotting factor. A comparison of the wholesale prices for the different types of clotting factor (that is, Factor VIII, Factor IX, and the other factors which are given to those patients with inhibitors to Factors VIII and IX (designated as Anti-inhibitors in this document)) reveals great variations among the three types. The Factor IX products are priced much lower than the Factor VIII products, and the special anti-inhibitor factors are priced higher than both of the other factors. Therefore, we believe that it would be more

equitable to set an add-on payment amount for each type of blood clotting factor.

The add-on payment amount for each of the three types of factor is based on the median average wholesale price of the several products available in that category of factor. However, since we are aware that hospitals are generally able to negotiate direct selling prices with the various drug companies that are lower than the wholesale prices listed in the Drug Topics Red Book, we have discounted the average wholesale prices by 15 percent before calculating the median price. This 15 percent discount is based on the results of a study conducted by the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) entitled "Use of Average Wholesale Prices in Reimbursing Pharmacies Participating in Medicaid and the Medicare Prescription Drug Program" (Report No. A-06-89-00037, October 3, 1989). The OIG determined that the average wholesale price of a drug is heavily discounted in direct sales and that current data show that this discount averages 15.5 percent. In addition, the OIG report states that the average wholesale price is not a meaningful payment level, and it should not be used for making payment for drugs under Medicare.

The add-on payment amounts we have established for the three types of blood clotting factor are as follows:

Factor VIII—\$.64 per unit

Factor IX—\$.26 per unit

Other Hemophilia Clotting Factors (for example, Anti-inhibitors)—\$1.00 per unit

Based on information from industry representatives, we believe that the clotting factors are generally available to hospitals or at below these prices.

We recognize that the products available, and their costs, are changing rapidly, with new products entering the market and existing products being discontinued. Since the market share of various products can shift dramatically within a short period of time, we believe the median price is preferable to a weighted average. We note, for example, several of the factor VIII products priced in ProPAC's report have been discontinued. In addition, we recognize that changes in the clotting factor market may require re-evaluation of the add-on payment amount before the final rule setting forth the FY 1991 prospective payment rates is issued.

In setting the add-on payment amount, we considered whether other costs associated with the administration of hemophilia clotting factor should be

taken into account. Although section 1886(a)(4) of the Act refers to a payment for the costs of administering the clotting factor, there is nothing in the legislative history or the ProPAC recommendation to suggest that Congress intended that the payment cover more than the actual cost of the clotting factor. Other costs associated with the administration of the clotting factor, such as needles and intravenous (IV) tubing, are neither unique to the hemophilia inpatient nor unusually costly. Therefore, we have based the add-on payment amount on the cost of the clotting factor only.

To identify these factors, specific codes have been developed that will identify the three types and will be included in the bill submitted by the hospital.

Instructions will be issued to Medicare hospitals explaining the codes and how to use them. These codes will serve to identify the cases requiring payment for the clotting factor and will also permit the accumulation of data over time. The data will be evaluated in determining future payment alternatives.

Since we currently have no data concerning the administration of clotting factor under the prospective payment system, that is, in which DRGs clotting factor is most often provided to Medicare beneficiaries and in what volume, we are unable at this time to adjust the DRG weights to account for the payment of clotting factor as an add-on amount. In calculating DRG relative weights, it has been our policy to remove from the total charges of any case those charges that are paid for as an add-on amount, that is, paid for on a basis other than DRG payment. For example, since heart and kidney acquisition costs are paid on a reasonable cost basis, the acquisition charges are removed prior to computing the average charge for each DRG. Although we will consider a similar policy for the clotting factor add-on amount when we have accumulated the relevant data, we note that total payments will be relatively minor. ProPAC estimated that approximately 8 million units of clotting factor are administered to Medicare hospital inpatients annually.

G. Recognition of Nursing School Costs

1. Background

Medicare has historically paid a share of the net cost of approved medical education activities. Regulations concerning Medicare payment for nursing and allied health science educational costs are located at §§ 412.113(b) and 413.85. Section

413.85(b) defines approved educational activities as formally organized or planned programs of study usually engaged in by providers in order to enhance the quality of patient care in an institution. Under § 413.85(e), approved medical education activities include training programs for nurses.

Section 413.85(a) specifies that the allowable cost of approved educational activities is the net cost, which is determined by deducting tuition revenues from total costs. The net costs incurred for classroom and clinical training in an approved nursing education program operated by the provider are included within the definition of allowable medical education costs. Under sections 1886(a)(4) and (d)(1)(A) of the Act and § 412.113(b) of the regulations, the costs of approved medical education activities are excluded from the definition of operating costs and, in the case of approved nursing education programs operated by the provider, are paid on a reasonable cost basis.

Some hospitals support approved nursing education programs operated by another institution, such as a nearby college or university. When a program is operated by another institution, the classroom training generally takes place in the nonhospital setting and the majority of the costs of the program are borne by the other institution and not by the hospital. Although the hospital may incur some costs associated with its provision of clinical training to students enrolled in a nearby institution, the hospital also gains in return in the quality of patient care. Since we do not believe that this type of relationship was what Congress intended when it provided for the costs of approved medical education programs to be paid on a reasonable cost basis, § 413.85 excludes costs incurred for nonprovider-operated programs from the definition of the approved medical education activities. The costs incurred by a hospital to support a nonprovider-operated nursing education program, to the extent they are allowable, are considered normal operating costs and are included in the DRG payment for inpatient services and are paid on a reasonable cost basis for outpatient services.

The allowable costs of nonprovider-operated nursing education programs are defined in chapter 4 of the Provider Reimbursement Manual (HCFA Pub. 15-1). Under our current policy, costs incurred by the hospital for clinical training at the hospital that relate to care of the hospital's patients are allowable. In cases in which classroom training occurs at the hospital, costs

incurred by the hospital are allowable if—

- The hospital's support does not constitute a redistribution of nonprovider costs to the hospital;
- The hospital is receiving a benefit for the support it furnishes; and
- The hospital's support is less than the cost the hospital would be expected to incur with a program of its own.

2. Section 6205 of Public Law 101-239.

Section 6205(a) of Public Law 101-239 created a new temporary category of "hospital-based nursing schools" in addition to those recognized under §§ 412.113(b) and 413.85. Costs incurred by hospitals for training nursing students enrolled in these schools are to be paid on the basis of reasonable cost as though the hospital met the criteria at § 413.85. As specified in section 6205(a)(1)(A) of Public Law 101-239, costs incurred by a "hospital-based nursing school" will qualify under this provision—

* * * if, before June 15, 1989, and thereafter, the hospital demonstrates that for each year, it incurs at least 50 percent of the costs of training nursing students at such school, the nursing school and the hospital share some common board members, and all instruction is provided at the hospital or, if in another building, a building on the immediate grounds of the hospital.

To meet the first criterion, the hospital must incur at least 50 percent of the total costs, that is, the costs before deduction of tuition revenues, incurred for classroom and clinical training provided to students enrolled in an approved nursing education program at the hospital-based nursing school. This would include programs in both professional and practical nursing that are approved by the appropriate approving body under § 413.85(e). We note that approved allied health science education programs are not included in this provision. Moreover, a hospital will not be considered to be incurring costs through payments to an educational institution for training of students.

Neither section 6205 of Public Law 101-239 nor the Committee Report (H.R. Rep. No. 386, 101st Cong., 1st Sess. (1989)) that accompanied Public Law 101-239 elaborates on the second criterion, that the nursing school and the hospital share some common board members. We will consider this requirement to be met if at least 50 percent of the board with fewer members (either the hospital or the nursing school) are also members of the board of the other entity, regardless of the number of members of the larger board.

The third criterion, that all instruction be provided at, or on the immediate grounds of, the hospital is clarified in the Conference Committee Report (H.R. Rep. No. 386, 101st Cong., 1st Sess. 869 (1989)). The report states that a program complies with this requirement

"* * * only if this instruction occurs on the hospital campus, *not on the campus of an institution with which the hospital is affiliated.*" (Emphasis added.) In instances where the hospital is contiguous to, or within, the campus of an educational institution, this criterion will be considered to be met only if the instruction is provided at the hospital.

Section 6205(b)(2)(A) of Public Law 101-239 requires that the Secretary issued proposed regulations before July 1, 1990 that specify—

- The relationship required between an approved nursing education or allied health education program and a hospital for the program's costs to be attributed to the hospital;

- The types of costs related to nursing or allied health education programs;
- The distinction between costs of approved educational activities paid on the basis of reasonable cost and educational costs treated as operating costs of inpatient hospital services; and
- The treatment of other funding sources for the program.

Section 6205(b)(2)(B) of Public Law 101-239 provides that the final rule will not be effective before October 1, 1990, or 30 days after publication of the final rule in the *Federal Register*, whichever is later.

In addition, section 6205(b)(2)(A) of Public Law 101-239 provides that during the period after December 18, 1989 and before October 1, 1990, there is to be no recoupment of overpayments attributable to nursing and allied health science costs that have been reported as allowable medical education costs payable on a reasonable cost basis and later have been determined to not meet the definition of these costs. We are issuing program instructions to our intermediaries to implement this provision.

Section 6205(a)(2) Public Law 101-239 states that the new "hospital-based nursing school" provision applies to cost reporting periods beginning on and after enactment and " * * * on or before the date on which the Secretary issues regulations pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(A) [section 6205(b)(2)(A) of Pub. L. 101-239]." In citing section 6205(b)(2)(A), section 6205(a)(2) of Public Law 101-239 presents us with a logical inconsistency. Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 6205(b)(2), taken together, make it clear that the regulations referred to in section 6205(b)(2)(A) are proposed

regulations, to be issued before July 1, 1990, and to be followed by a 60-day comment period. The final regulations (to which, it is assumed, the term "regulations" in section 6205(a)(2) of Public Law 101-239 refers) are to be effective no earlier than October 1, 1990. In light of the common understanding of the term "regulations", the temporary category of "hospital-based nursing schools" will expire with a hospital's first cost reporting period beginning on or after the date the final regulations required by section 6205(b)(2)(B)(iii) of Public Law 101-239 are issued.

Given the temporary and limited applicability of section 6205(a) of Public Law 101-239, we do not intend to amend the codified regulations to reflect the implementation of the policies explained above.

III. Temporary Elimination of the Day Limitation on Inpatient Hospital Services

A. Background

1. Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988

After publication of a May 27, 1988 proposed rule concerning changes to the inpatient hospital prospective payment system and FY 1989 rates, on July 1, 1988, Public Law 100-360 was enacted. Under section 101(2) of Public Law 100-360, essentially unlimited inpatient hospital days were made available for Medicare beneficiaries (except for the inpatient psychiatric day limitation) effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 1989. Before enactment of Public Law 100-360, a beneficiary was entitled to 90 days of inpatient hospital services during each spell of illness. In addition, a beneficiary could draw from a lifetime reserve of 60 days if that beneficiary's inpatient hospital days exceeded 90 days in a spell of illness. Under that system, a hospital could bill the beneficiary or the beneficiary's third party insurer for inpatient hospital services furnished to a beneficiary whose inpatient hospital benefits were exhausted either before entering the hospital or, following admission, during the outlier portion of an inpatient stay (see 42 CFR 412.42(e)).

Hospitals and hospital associations expressed concern to Congress that they would be financially disadvantaged by not being permitted to bill beneficiaries on their third party insurers for inpatient hospital services that, before enactment of Public Law 100-360, were not covered because beneficiaries had exhausted their inpatient hospital benefits. (These noncovered days were not reflected in the cost base used to establish the prospective payment rates and thus are

not recognized in those rates.) Therefore Public Law 100-360 required the Secretary to take into consideration reductions in payments by Medicare beneficiaries to prospective payment hospitals due to the elimination of a day limitation on inpatient hospital services caused by the provisions of section 101 of Public Law 100-360 when establishing the prospective payment rates, outlier thresholds, and diagnosis related group (DRG) weighting factors for FY 1989. In addition, section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 required the Secretary, when increasing the target amounts for hospitals excluded from the prospective payment system, to take into consideration on a hospital-specific basis, the same reduction in payments to excluded hospitals for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1988.

2. The September 30, 1988 Final Rule

On September 30, 1988, we published the final rule (53 FR 38476) on changes to the inpatient hospital prospective payment system and FY 1989 rates. In that rule, we implemented two provisions of Public Law 100-360, which are discussed below, and we requested public comment on those changes.

3. The Family Support Act of 1988

Subsequent to the publication of the September 30 final rule, the Family Support Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-485) was enacted on October 13, 1988. Section 608(d) of Public Law 100-485 made several technical corrections to Public Law 100-360, including the following changes concerning provisions of Public Law 100-360 implemented in the September 30 final rule:

- Section 608(d)(3)(D) of Public Law 100-485 revised section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 to change the date for implementing the target rate adjustments from cost reporting periods that begin on or after October 1, 1988 to portions of cost reporting periods occurring on or after January 1, 1989.

- Section 608(d)(3)(E) of Public Law 100-485 revised section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 to specifically provide that an adjustment for any distortion due to higher costs caused by the expansion of inpatient hospital benefits is to be made whether or not a hospital or unit actually exceeded its target rate.

4. The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Repeal Act of 1989

The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Repeal Act (Public Law 101-234) was enacted on December 13, 1989. Under section 101(c) of Public Law 101-234,

any adjustment in payments to hospitals under the prospective payment system as provided for in section 104(c)(1) of Public Law 100-360 ended effective with discharges occurring on or after January 1, 1990. Under section 101(c)(2)(A)(i) of Public Law 101-234, the adjustment to the target rates for hospitals excluded from the prospective payment system, as provided for in section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360, was eliminated effective with portions of cost reporting periods occurring on or after January 1, 1990. In addition, section 101(c)(2)(A)(ii) of Public Law 101-234 added clarification that in making any adjustment under section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360, the adjustments to hospital target rates must be made disregarding whether a beneficiary had exhausted his or her Medicare benefits prior to January 1, 1989.

B. Hospitals Subject to the Prospective Payment System

Section 104(c)(1) of Public Law 100-360, as amended by section 101(c) of Public Law 101-234, requires the Secretary to take into consideration reductions in payments by Medicare beneficiaries to prospective payment hospitals due to the elimination of a day limitation on inpatient hospital services caused by the provisions of section 101 of Public Law 100-360 in establishing the prospective payment rates, outlier thresholds, and DRG weighting factors for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1988 and before January 1, 1990.

In the September 30, 1988 final rule, we stated that we had determined that the prospective payment system would automatically adjust to the expansion of inpatient hospital benefits under Public Law 100-360 (53 FR 38519). This is because increased payments would occur automatically as DRG payments are made for entire stays, including the outlier portions thereof, that previously would not have been covered due to a beneficiary's exhaustion of covered inpatient hospital days. Aggregate payments to hospitals would automatically reflect changes in the volume of Medicare discharges resulting from the elimination of the day limitation on inpatient hospital benefits. The additional discharges occurring as a result of the expansion of benefits would be covered and paid for automatically as are all other discharges under the prospective payment system. Hence, we determined that no adjustment to the standardized payment amounts was necessary to accommodate the additional discharges for Medicare beneficiaries who prior to Public Law 100-360 would have been

financially liable for such care because they had exhausted their Medicare inpatient hospital benefits prior to admission.

On the other hand, we indicated there would be additional days of inpatient care (those occurring during the outlier portion of a hospital stay) for which benefits were exhausted and the hospital would previously have been permitted to bill beneficiaries. This care was not reflected in the data base used to establish the prospective payment rates. Because these inpatient days would, in general, be covered after January 1, 1989, we analyzed whether it was necessary to make an adjustment to the prospective payment system in order to ensure that such care is financed out of additional Federal monies rather than through the updated standardized amounts and outlier funds.

We analyzed FY 1987 data regarding noncovered days of hospital care furnished under the existing benefit structure. Most of these noncovered days would have been covered under Public Law 100-360, and in some cases would have constituted covered outlier days. We estimated that outlier payments for such days would be about one percent of total DRG payments. However, to reflect these additional payments by increasing the standardized amounts by one percent would have required that the outlier offsets to those rates or the outlier thresholds be increased to ensure that total outlier payments were between five and six percent of total DRG payments and did not exceed the outlier offset. Moreover, our September 1988 estimate was overstated to the extent that some proportion of hospital days continued to be noncovered even after implementation of Public Law 100-360 (for example, medically unnecessary days). Therefore, we determined that for October 1, 1988 it was inappropriate to incorporate an adjustment into the rates.

Instead, we estimated outlier payments and outlier offsets on the basis of days covered under the inpatient benefit structure as reflected in the FY 1987 MEDPAR data base, knowing that the proportion of days eligible for outlier payments would increase as expanded coverage began on January 1, 1989 and that a higher proportion of DRG payments would thus be attributable to outlier payments as a result of such expansion of benefits.

In light of the increases in the outlier thresholds that were already necessitated by the changes in outlier payment policy for FY 1989 described in detail in the September 30, 1988 final rule (53 FR 38502), we indicated in that

rule that the latter approach was appropriate for FY 1989 and preferable to further possible increases in the outlier thresholds. Accordingly, while the outlier offsets to the standardized amounts averaged 5.1 percent for FY 1989,¹ we expected that outlier payments would comprise about 6.1 percent of total DRG payments during that same year. These larger than estimated outlier payments in effect constituted our FY 1989 adjustment to account for the reductions in beneficiary payments to prospective payment hospitals owing to the elimination of the day limitation on inpatient hospital services provided for in section 101 of Public Law 100-360. We used the same methodology to adjust for the effects of catastrophic coverage in the FY 1990 payments (54 FR 36499).

The adjustments described above eliminated the need to increase the prospective payment rates to account for catastrophic coverage. Moreover, the DRG relative weights are already based on the average total charges, rather than average covered charges, for all cases in each DRG. Consequently, the weighting factors established in accordance with the methodology described at 53 FR 38492 and 54 FR 36468 contained no distortions resulting from the potentially different incidence across DRGs of inpatient hospital care furnished to beneficiaries who have exhausted their inpatient hospital benefits. Hence, no adjustment to the relative weights was needed to take into account the elimination of the day limitation on inpatient hospital care resulting from implementation of Public Law 100-360.

C. Excluded Hospitals and Units

We provided in the September 30, 1988 final rule that hospitals and hospital units excluded from the prospective payment system may apply for increases to their target rates to correct any distortion due to higher costs caused by the expansion of inpatient hospital benefits due to the provisions of section 101 of Public Law 100-360. We provided for the adjustment under section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 to be available to any hospital that experiences a distortion due to increased costs caused by elimination of the inpatient coverage limitation, whether or not the hospital actually exceeds its target rate. This is because any distortion would be due to the effect

¹ Although we accurately stated at 53 FR 38505 that we are maintaining "the outlier pool at 5.1 percent", we inadvertently asserted at 53 FR 38520 that "the outlier offsets to the standardized amounts average 5.2 percent for FY 1989".

of section 101 of Public Law 100-360 and would be essentially unrelated to the actions of any individual hospital—it is a circumstance that could potentially affect all hospitals to some degree.

We provided that a hospital may request a target amount adjustment directly from its intermediary. The target amount would be adjusted for the impact of any reduction in Medicare payments that the hospital experienced because of the previous inpatient day benefit limitation. The adjustment would be based on the estimated incremental costs of care historically furnished to Medicare beneficiaries after they had exhausted benefits during an inpatient stay.

We provided that a hospital may request an adjustment from its intermediary after the effective date of the September 30 final rule (that is, October 1, 1988) but no later than 180 days after the closing date of the hospital's first cost reporting period beginning on or after October 1, 1988. In order for its request to be considered, we provided that a hospital must submit a written request for an adjustment to its target amount under authority of this provision along with the following supporting documentation:

- A statement from the hospital stating whether the adjustment is to be based on its historical experience in its base period or its last cost reporting period beginning before October 1, 1988. (If this period is not of at least 12 months in duration, multiple consecutive cost reporting periods comprising at least 12 months must be used.)
- The hospital's cost report or reports for the period selected by the hospital to serve as the basis for the adjustment.
- Billing data for the period that serves as the basis for the adjustment documenting the following:

- The number of hospital inpatient days furnished to Medicare beneficiaries for which no payment was made because the beneficiary had exhausted part A hospital benefits. (Excluded from the count are days for stays that were not covered in their entirety, since such stays will be paid as discharges after January 1, 1989.)
- The ancillary charges for services furnished on the days after the beneficiary had exhausted part A hospital benefits, as counted above.

Upon receipt of a request for an adjustment by a hospital that includes the required information, the intermediary will verify the data submitted by the hospital regarding beneficiary status and exhaustion of inpatient hospital entitlement. (Medical necessity of acute care for inpatient

days following exhaustion of entitlement would be assumed.)

In order to adjust the target amount, the intermediary will—

- Estimate the total inpatient operating costs for services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries, including the costs of services furnished after a beneficiary had exhausted benefits;
- Take the ratio of the above-determined costs to the Medicare allowable inpatient operating costs for the period from which the hospital's data are derived; and
- Apply this ratio to the otherwise applicable target amount for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1988.

We indicated that the intermediary will determine the amount of any appropriate adjustment and notify the hospital of its determination within 90 days of the date of receipt of the request.

We provided the following example to illustrate the target amount adjustment:

1. Medicare allowable inpatient operating costs in base year or last cost reporting period beginning before October 1, 1988.....\$600,000
2. Estimated routine costs of inpatient days furnished to Medicare beneficiaries after exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits: 50 days of care multiplied by \$400 Medicare allowable inpatient operating cost per diem..... \$20,000
3. Estimated costs for ancillary services furnished after Medicare beneficiaries had exhausted Part A hospital benefits (estimated by applying departmental cost-to-charge ratios from the cost report to the ancillary charges)..... \$10,000
4. Incremental costs of care furnished to Medicare beneficiaries after exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits (Line 2 plus Line 3)..... \$30,000
5. Total inpatient operating costs for Medicare beneficiaries notwithstanding exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits (Line 1 plus Line 4).....\$630,000
6. Ratio of total inpatient operating costs for Medicare beneficiaries to covered Medicare inpatient operating costs (Line 5 divided by Line 1) 1.05
7. Target amount applicable to cost reporting period beginning on or after October 1, 1988.....\$4,500.00
8. Adjusted target amount for cost reporting period beginning on or after October 1, 1988 (Line 6 multiplied by Line 7)..... \$4,725.00

D. Discussion of Public Comments Concerning the September 30, 1988 Final Rule

Six letters were received timely containing comments on the provisions in Public Law 100-360 that were

included in the September 30, 1988 final rule, that is, the only provisions of the final rule that were subject to comment. Although we received additional comments concerning various other aspects of the prospective payment system, we are not responding to those comments in this document.

All of the commenters raised issues concerning Medicare compensation to hospitals for losses that may be suffered due to the elimination of the Medicare day benefit limitation. Two of the commenters discussed the methodology for compensating prospective payment hospitals; five of the commenters raised issues concerning the target rate adjustments for excluded hospitals and units. In general, the commenters supported our methodology to adjust target rates; however, several commenters suggested modifications to our methodology.

1. Hospitals Subject to the Prospective Payment System

Comment: Two commenters expressed general concern that increases in outlier payments may not adequately compensate hospitals for losses that they may incur due to the elimination of the day limitation on hospital benefits. These commenters were concerned that HCFA did not address the issue of future adjustments to the system to provide additional funds for catastrophic coverage. That is, these commenters wanted to know whether HCFA planned to collect data on the additional covered days in order to make an adjustment to the standardized amounts or whether permanent changes to the outlier policy would be adopted. Both commenters stated that HCFA should clearly specify now how additional funds will be incorporated into total payments under the prospective payment system in the future. One commenter suggested that HCFA collect the necessary data to develop an appropriate adjustment and publish the methodology for, and results of, the calculation of the effects of catastrophic coverage on prospective payment hospitals.

Response: We recognize that the funding of additional covered days through outlier payments was a temporary measure and had intended to develop a permanent adjustment once we had actual data on the impact of catastrophic coverage. However, because catastrophic coverage was repealed effective January 1, 1990, a permanent adjustment to finance the additional covered days of care that are currently funded through outlier payments is no longer necessary.

Further, we note that since the funding of the additional covered days through outlier payments did not affect the outlier thresholds or the outlier offsets to the standardized amounts, no changes are required in the FY 1990 outlier payments and outlier offsets to account for the repeal of catastrophic coverage.

2. Hospitals and Units Excluded From the Prospective Payment System

Comment: Several commenters pointed out that although the elimination of the hospital day benefit limitation on Medicare inpatient hospital services under section 101 of Public Law 100-360 became effective January 1, 1989, under the September 30, 1988 final rule, target amounts would be adjusted for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1988, which would be before the implementation date of section 101 of Public Law 100-360. The commenters suggested that our implementation date be revised. Similarly, some commenters asked that we apply the adjustments to portions of cost reporting periods occurring after January 1, 1989, even if the fiscal year for the hospital began before the effective date of the law, in order to ensure that costs for current inpatient beneficiaries who had exhausted their Medicare coverage would be recognized timely.

Response: Section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 specified that adjustments for excluded hospitals and units would begin for cost reporting periods starting on or after October 1, 1988. The policy set forth in our September 30, 1988 final rule conformed with this provision. However, subsequently, section 608(d)(3)(D) of Public Law 100-485 revised the date for implementing the target rate adjustments from cost reporting periods that begin on or after October 1, 1988 to portions of cost reporting periods occurring on or after January 1, 1989. Additionally, section 101(c) of Public Law 101-234 limited the adjustment provisions of section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 to portions of cost reporting periods occurring before January 1, 1990. In this document, we are revising § 413.40(i) to clarify that target rate adjustments will be made for any portion of a cost reporting period occurring on or after January 1, 1989 and before January 1, 1990.

Comment: One commenter requested that instead of the option of using the last cost reporting period beginning before October 1, 1988 as the basis for the target rate adjustment, a hospital be allowed to use an earlier cost reporting period so that any increases would be available closer to January 1, 1989. That

is, rather than allowing a hospital the option of using its last cost reporting period beginning before October 1988 to determine any adjustment under § 413.40(i) as provided in the September 30, 1988 final rule, a hospital should be given the option of using the last cost reporting period ending before January 1, 1989 (the effective date of the elimination of the hospital day benefit limit).

Response: Based on section 608(d)(3)(D) of Public Law 100-485, which amended section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 to change the effective date for providing a target rate adjustment from cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1988 to any portion of a cost reporting period occurring on or after January 1, 1989, we are revising § 413.40(i)(2)(i) to provide that the alternative to using an excluded hospital's base year data in making this target rate adjustment is using the hospital's last cost reporting period ending before January 1, 1989. We had proposed to use the most recent cost reporting period data which began before October 1, 1988 for making the target rate adjustment as an option to using the hospital's base-year data to ensure that necessary data would be readily available. However, we agree that this slightly earlier cost reporting period should not present much more of a problem with respect to the ready availability of cost and day information needed by the intermediary.

Comment: One commenter expressed concern that only billed charges for ancillary services are to be used to determine ancillary costs for services furnished on the days after the beneficiary had exhausted inpatient hospital benefits in making the target amount adjustment. The commenter pointed out that in some cases hospitals will not have these data readily available and that in other cases billed ancillary charges will not even be obtainable, for example, in a no-charge, all-inclusive rate hospital or in a hospital that is paid on an average per diem rate under a State Medicaid program for care furnished to a Medicaid recipient. The commenter suggested that in addition to billed charges for ancillary services, actual cost data and average cost per diem be used in making the calculation for the target rate adjustment.

Response: We have revised § 413.40(i)(2)(iii) so that a hospital that is unable to document its actual ancillary charges, including a no-charge structure and an all-inclusive-rate hospital, may use an average cost per diem for ancillary services in lieu of estimating

ancillary costs by applying departmental cost-to-charge ratios from the cost report to ancillary charges. We recognize that limiting the methodology to billed charges could be impossible in certain cases and could represent an unnecessary evidential burden in others. We believe intermediaries have adequate working relationships with the affected hospitals to ensure that reasonable determinations of ancillary costs will result.

Comment: Two commenters asked that we clarify the treatment of inpatient days for a Medicare beneficiary who was treated in the year used for the adjustment calculation and had exhausted his or her inpatient benefits before being admitted to an excluded hospital or unit.

Response: Section 101(c)(2)(A)(ii) of Public Law 101-234 amended section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 to require that target rate adjustments be made without regard to whether a beneficiary had exhausted Medicare coverage prior to January 1, 1989. Beneficiaries who exhausted their benefits before January 1, 1989, and became re-entitled to benefits under catastrophic coverage fall into two categories: those who exhausted their benefits after admission to the hospital and those who exhausted their benefits prior to admission. To account for these beneficiaries in the adjustment of the target rate for the impact of catastrophic coverage, it is necessary only to increase the target rate for hospital inpatient days for a beneficiary who exhausted benefits after admission, including any beneficiary who exhausted his or her inpatient benefits prior to the beginning of the selected cost reporting period.

If the beneficiary was discharged during the selected cost reporting period, this discharge must also be added to the total number of Medicare discharges because this discharge would not have been recorded as a Medicare discharge during the selected cost reporting period. (A discharge would have been counted during the cost reporting period in which the beneficiary exhausted his or her Medicare benefits and changed payment status.) No discharge would be added for a beneficiary who exhausted his or her benefits in either the prior or selected cost reporting period but was not discharged until a subsequent cost reporting period.

However, hospital inpatient days furnished to Medicare beneficiaries for which no payment was made during the selected cost reporting period because the beneficiary had exhausted his or her

inpatient hospital benefits prior to admission are not taken into account in calculating the costs to be used in the target rate adjustment determination. The target rate is determined on a cost per case basis. We believe that on average the cost for beneficiaries who had exhausted benefits during their stays (for which the exhausted day benefits are recognized in the adjustment) should approximate the average cost per discharge for the patients admitted after all benefits were exhausted. Therefore, an explicit adjustment to the target rate is unnecessary.

Comment: One commenter noted that although we stated in the preamble of the September 30, 1988, final rule (53 FR 38521) that intermediaries will make the target rate adjustment determinations, we provided in the regulations at § 413.30(i)(1) for HCFA to make these determinations. The commenter suggested that § 413.40(i)(1) be clarified to provide that intermediaries would determine target rate adjustments rather than HCFA although HCFA makes other exception, exemption, and adjustment determinations. Another commenter recommended that we make it clear that HCFA, rather than the intermediaries, should make the target rate adjustment determinations.

Response: We concur with the first commenter's suggestion and have revised § 413.40(i)(1) to indicate that the intermediaries will make these target rate determinations. This clarification will eliminate confusion concerning in which circumstances HCFA reserves its authority to make determinations.

Comment: One commenter suggested that we send notification and instructions to all excluded hospitals about the adjustment for higher costs caused by the expansion of inpatient hospital benefits, treat the applications expeditiously, provide for timely appeals, and advise hospitals that exceptions for case-mix changes are not precluded by this adjustment.

Response: We believe the changes at § 413.40(i) include adequate instructions and, further, will not confuse hospitals into thinking that this adjustment would prevent them from seeking any other applicable exception or adjustment, such as an exception for case-mix changes. This target rate adjustment procedure is clearly in addition to the other exceptions and adjustments provided in § 413.40 (g) and (h).

With respect to expeditious processing of applications for and appeals of these adjustments under § 413.40(i), we believe that the requirement in the preamble of the September 30, 1988 final rule (53 FR

38521) for the intermediary to make a determination on a request for a target rate adjustment and notify the hospital within 90 days of the date of receipt of the request assures timely processing. Further, we note that we issued a Program Memorandum (A-89-4) in July 1989 authorizing intermediaries to make an interim adjustment to a provider's target rate for purposes of adjusting interim payments. Finally, due to the relatively objective nature of the basis for this particular adjustment and an intermediary's extensive working relationship with most of the affected hospitals, we expect that appeals in those cases will be rare and that the standard appeals mechanisms provided by the regulations in subpart R of part 405 (§§ 405.1801 through 405.1889) are adequate to deal with these cases.

Comment: Several commenters suggested that the regulations added at § 413.40(i) because of Public Law 100-360 also provide HCFA with the authority to make target rate adjustments for changes in case mix, average length of stay, changing admission patterns, changes in professional review standards, inappropriate base-year factors, and a variety of other reasons that may be beyond the control of the hospital. Some commenters also suggested that these additional adjustments should be made automatically whether or not the hospital had exceeded its target rate.

Response: As we pointed out in the September 30, 1988 final rule (53 FR 38520), making a target rate adjustment to correct any distortion due to higher costs caused by the expansion of inpatient hospital benefits is an exception to our general rule that an excluded hospital or unit may not receive a target rate exception or adjustment unless the hospital or unit actually exceeded its target rate. Subsequently, section 608(d)(3)(E) of Public Law 100-485 revised section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 to specifically provide that an adjustment for any distortion due to higher costs caused by the expansion of inpatient hospital benefits is to be made whether or not a hospital or unit actually exceeded its target rate.

All other bases for exceptions and adjustments are subject to the provisions of the regulations at § 413.40(g) for exceptions and § 413.40(h) for adjustments. Under both paragraphs, HCFA may adjust a hospital's operating costs "only if a hospital's operating costs exceed the rate of increase ceiling imposed under this section."

Under the provisions currently in effect, hospitals have requested exceptions and adjustments and some

have been granted. We have also provided intermediaries with the authority to make future exceptions and adjustments in those individual cases with the same recurring circumstances. However, the provisions of Public Law 100-360 do not provide authority to provide any exception or adjustment other than one for a distortion due to higher costs caused by the expansion of inpatient hospital benefits unless a hospital or unit actually exceeded its target rate. Thus, we are not revising the standards or procedures for any other type of exception or adjustment request.

Comment: Another commenter suggested that a long-term care hospital should be exempted from the rate-of-increase ceiling altogether because Medicare beneficiaries constitute a larger portion of its total patient utilization than the patient utilization of other types of hospitals. Thus, unlike other types of hospitals, long-term care hospitals are unable to balance lower payments from Medicare with higher payments from other payors.

Response: We have no statutory authority to exempt an excluded hospital or unit from the rate-of-increase ceiling rules. Moreover, we do not agree with the underlying premise of the comment. Medicare payments to long-term care hospitals, as well as to other hospitals excluded from the prospective payment system, are based on the reasonable cost of providing services to Medicare beneficiaries. The ceiling on the rate of increase in operating costs per case ensures that Medicare payments are reasonable and, in the case of efficient hospitals, should not necessitate balancing Medicare payments with higher payments from other payors.

For the convenience of the reader, we are presenting a revised example to illustrate the target amount adjustment. This example takes into account the provisions of section 104(c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 as amended by section 608(d) of Public Law 100-485 and by sections 101 (c) and (d) of Public Law 101-234, and changes made because of public comment:

Step 1. Medicare allowable inpatient operating costs for covered days of care in base cost year or last reporting period ending before January 1, 1989—\$600,000

Step 2. Number of Medicare discharges for the cost reporting period used in Step 1—300

Step 3. Average cost per discharge (Step 1 divided by Step 2)—\$2,000

Step 4. Estimated costs for ancillary services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries after exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits. (If actual ancillary

charges are available, ancillary costs are estimated by applying departmental cost-to-charge ratios from the cost report to the ancillary charges. If actual ancillary charges cannot be retrieved from the hospital's system, an ancillary cost per diem may be used in completing this step.)—\$10,000

Step 5. Estimated routine costs of Medicare inpatient days furnished to beneficiaries after exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits equals 50 days of care multiplied by \$400 for the Medicare allowable inpatient operating cost per diem (obtained from the Medicare cost report). (All-inclusive-rate hospitals and no-charge-structure hospitals use total inpatient operating costs per diem (which equals Step 1 divided by total Medicare inpatient days))—\$20,000

Step 6. Total inpatient operating costs for Medicare beneficiaries notwithstanding exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits (Step 1 plus sum of Step 4 and Step 5)—\$630,000

Step 7. Number of Medicare discharges for beneficiaries who had exhausted Part A hospital benefits in a prior cost reporting period—10

Step 8. Total Medicare discharges notwithstanding exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits (Step 2 plus Step 7)—310

Step 9. Average cost per discharge notwithstanding exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits (Step 6 divided by Step 8)—\$2,032

Step 10. Ratio of average cost per discharge notwithstanding exhaustion of Part A hospital benefits to average cost per discharge (Step 9 divided by Step 3)—1.016

Step 11. Updated target rate applicable to latest cost reporting period beginning before January 1, 1989—\$2,438

Step 12. Adjusted target rate applicable to any portion of a cost reporting period occurring on or after January 1, 1989 and before January 1, 1990 (Step 10 multiplied by Step 11)—\$2,477

Step 13. Updated target rate eliminating Catastrophic coverage adjustment for portions of cost reporting period occurring after January 1, 1990 (Step 11 multiplied by FY 1990 update factor (1.055))—\$2,572

IV. Technical Corrections From the September 30, 1988 Final Rule

Because several editorial errors were made in the regulations text of the September 30, 1988 final rule, we are amending §§ 405.310, 412.64, 412.92(f)(1), 412.96(b)(1)(ii), and 413.40 to correct these errors as follows:

- In the title of § 405.310(m), we are removing the period after the word "inpatients".

- We are correcting the section designation "§ 412.64" to read "§ 412.63".

- In the first sentence of § 412.84(h), we are removing the word "annually". In the September 30 final rule, in response to a public comment (53 FR 8507), we indicated that, as cost reports are settled by the intermediaries, we are instructing the intermediaries to update the hospital-specific cost-to-charge ratios effective with discharges 30 days after the date of the Notice of Amount of Program Reimbursement. This means that in any given year a hospital's cost-to-charge ratio may be updated more than once or not at all based on the number of cost reports settled. Although we had changed our proposed policy in response to the public comment, we failed to make a corresponding change in the regulations text.

- In the first sentence of § 412.92(f)(1), we are removing the word "hospital's" after the word "its".

- We are correcting the number "25" to read "275" in § 412.96(b)(1)(ii).

- In the title of § 413.40(h)(1), we are correcting the title "Capability of cost reporting periods." to read "Comparability of cost reporting periods."

V. Regulatory Impact Analysis

A. Introduction

Executive Order (E.O.) 12291 requires us to prepare and publish a regulatory impact analysis for any final rule that meets one of the E.O. 12291 criteria for a "major rule;" that is, a rule that will be likely to result in—

- An annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more;

- A major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

- A significant adverse effect on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic or export markets.

In addition, we generally prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis that is consistent with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)(5 U.S.C. 601 through 612), unless the Secretary certifies that a final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. For purposes of the RFA, we consider all hospitals to be small entities.

Also, section 1102(b) of the Act requires the Secretary to prepare a regulatory impact analysis for any final rule that may have a significant impact on the operations of a substantial

number of small rural hospitals. Such an analysis must conform to the provisions of section 604 of the RFA. With the exception of hospitals located in certain rural counties adjacent to urban areas and hospitals located in certain New England counties, for purposes of section 1102(b) of the Act, we define a small rural hospital as a hospital with fewer than 50 beds located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area or New England County Metropolitan Area. Section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act specifies that hospitals located in certain rural counties adjacent to one or more urban areas are deemed to be located in the adjacent urban area. We have identified 52 rural hospitals, some of which may be considered small, that we have reclassified as urban hospitals. Also, section 601(g) of the Social Security Amendments of 1983 (Pub. L. 98-21) designated hospitals in certain New England counties as belonging to the adjacent New England Metropolitan County. Thus, for purposes of the prospective payment system, we classified these hospitals as urban hospitals.

It is clear that the changes being implemented in this document will affect both a substantial number of small rural hospitals as well as other classes of hospitals, and the effects on some may be significant. Therefore, the discussion below, in combination with the rest of this final rule, constitutes a combined regulatory impact analysis and regulatory flexibility analysis in accordance with E.O. 12291 and the RFA.

B. Limitations of Our Analysis

As has been the case in previously published regulatory impact analyses, the following quantitative analysis is limited to presenting the projected effects of final policy and rate changes on current and projected payment rates. In the analysis that follows, we examined the effects of both statutory and final policy changes on hospital payments by projecting estimated payments under each set of policy changes onto the current payment amounts. That is, we projected the effects of each policy change on payments while holding all other payment variables constant. Thus, we are not attempting to predict behavioral responses to our policy changes, and we are not generally accounting for changes in such exogenous variables as admissions, lengths of stay, or case mix.

In view of the difficulty we have in quantifying impacts and attributing causality, we believe that the approach we are taking in the specific impact

discussions below is the most feasible one. Wherever possible, we have included quantitative representations of the changes being implemented in this final rule. As with previously published impact analyses, we are soliciting comments and information about the anticipated effects of these changes on the prospective payment system.

C. Hospitals Included In and Excluded From the Prospective Payment System

In general, hospitals began operating under the prospective payment system with the start of their cost reporting period beginning on or after October 1, 1983. Further, since September 1985, both Massachusetts and New York have terminated the waivers under which they were excluded from the Medicare prospective payment system, and hospitals in those States have entered the prospective payment system. (Massachusetts hospitals came under the Medicare prospective payment system in October 1985, while New York hospitals began receiving Medicare prospective payments in January 1986.) Effective January 1, 1989, the 94 short-term, acute care hospitals located in New Jersey came under the prospective payment system. The demonstration project being conducted in the Rochester region of New York State has ended and the 10 hospitals in that region are now under the prospective payment system.

With the enactment of section 9304 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-509), which added section 1886(d)(9) to the Act, the 58 acute care hospitals located in Puerto Rico began receiving payments under the prospective payment system effective with discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1987. Also, effective with cost reporting periods that began on or after October 1, 1987, alcohol/drug hospitals and units that had been excluded from the prospective payment system under § 412.22(c) of the regulations began receiving Medicare prospective payments. Thus, only 59 short-term, acute care hospitals remain excluded from the prospective payment system under section 1814(b)(3) of the Act (in Maryland) or demonstration projects (in the Finger Lakes regions of New York State). As of March 1, 1990, about 5,560 hospitals (85 percent of all Medicare-participating hospitals) were operating under the prospective payment system.

As of March 1, 1990, almost 940 Medicare hospitals were excluded from the prospective payment system and continue to be paid on the basis of their reasonable cost, subject to limits on the rate of their cost increases. These hospitals include psychiatric,

rehabilitation, long-term care, and children's hospitals. Another 1,720 psychiatric and rehabilitation units in hospitals subject to the prospective payment system are excluded from the prospective payment system as of the same date. These units, too, are paid on the basis of reasonable cost subject to limits on the rate of their cost increases. Although hospitals extensively involved either in the treatment of cancer or cancer research have been paid on a reasonable cost basis, section 6003(a) of Public Law 101-239 specifically excluded these hospitals from the prospective payment system effective with cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1989. There are currently eight hospitals that HCFA has designated as cancer research or treatment hospitals.

Over 1,160 hospitals are now paid on various special bases under the prospective payment system, as required by statute. They include sole community hospitals; Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals; and rural referral centers. In addition, there are some 1,580 hospitals that are now receiving additional payments on the basis of being classified as disproportionate share hospitals.

About 30 of these hospitals also receive special payments as rural referral centers. About 1,190 hospitals are receiving additional payments for the indirect cost of medical education. There are about 610 hospitals that qualify for additional payments under both the indirect medical education and disproportionate share payment provisions.

D. Impact of Repealing the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988

As a result of the enactment of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Repeal Act of 1989 (Public Law 101-234), payment adjustments for hospitals and hospital units included and excluded from the prospective payment system that were authorized under sections 104 (c)(1) and (c)(2) of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-360) have been repealed effective January 1, 1990.

The overall impact of section 101(a) of Public Law 100-360 was to permit beneficiaries to be treated for diseases or conditions requiring a covered level of hospital inpatient care without regard to the number of days of inpatient care. Thus, beneficiaries and other third party payers were relieved of the burden of paying for care once they had reached the former maximum number of hospital inpatient days allowed per spell of illness (90 days) or used up their lifetime reserve days (an additional 60 days).

Sections 104 (c)(1) and (c)(2) of Public Law 100-360 authorized the Secretary to adjust payments to both hospitals and hospital units included in and excluded from the prospective payment system. We implemented these provisions in the September 30, 1988 prospective payment system final rule (53 FR 38519). For hospitals and hospital units excluded from the prospective payment system, we revised § 413.40 to allow these hospitals and hospital units to receive an adjustment to their target rate based on the additional costs incurred in treating Medicare patients under the new catastrophic provisions. For hospitals paid under the prospective payment system, we maintained the outlier payment pool at the same percentage of total payments. This had the effect of using additional federal funds for day outliers to cover the costs of the additional days of hospital care allowed under the hospital catastrophic provisions.

The effect of repealing the inpatient hospital catastrophic coverage provisions of Public Law 100-360 is to transfer back to beneficiaries or third party payers the obligation of paying for services once the 90 days allowed per spell of illness or the 60 lifetime reserve days are exhausted. The adjustment granted under § 413.40 is now withdrawn and excluded hospital and hospital unit target rates will be readjusted. Payments for day outliers to hospitals under the Medicare prospective payment system will automatically return to their previous levels. We are unable to assess the dollar impact of the repeal of the catastrophic provisions on excluded hospitals and hospital units because the requests for adjustments to the target rate were handled by each hospital's fiscal intermediary. The data to estimate the amount of the adjustments are for this reason not readily available. The repeal of the catastrophic provisions is estimated to reduce Medicare payments to prospective payment hospitals by approximately \$1.3 billion in FY 1990. The hospitals will be able to charge the beneficiary or seek other third-party payment for the periods that will not be covered because of the reimposition of the benefit period limitations.

E. Impact on Excluded Hospitals and Units

As noted in the section C. of this impact analysis, almost 940 Medicare hospitals and 1,720 units in hospitals included in the prospective payment system currently are paid on a reasonable cost basis subject to the rate-of-increase ceiling requirement of

§ 413.40. Section 6015 of Public Law 101-239 amended the target rate adjustment authority contained in section 1886(b)(4) of the Act to provide that an excluded hospital or unit may, under certain conditions, be granted a new base year rather than an adjustment to the target rate already established. Thus, the assignment of a new base year period is another mechanism HCFA can now use, when appropriate, in determining the payment amount for an excluded hospital or unit that has exceeded its ceiling in a cost reporting period.

We expect that section 6015(a) of Public Law 101-239 that amended section 1886(b)(4) of the Act will have a minimal effect on hospitals and hospital units that are excluded from the prospective payment system. As described in section II.D.2. of this preamble, we anticipate the granting of a new hospital base year as a remedy for costs exceeding a hospital's target rate ceiling only under limited circumstances and only when other remedies provided for in our regulations will not suffice. We will grant the assignment of a new base year only when costs exceeding the hospital's ceiling were the result of permanent, substantial, and significant changes in patient services. Moreover, before we will assign a new base year, the hospital will have to demonstrate the reasonableness of the costs associated with the change for which it was seeking a new base year.

Because we intend to assign a new base year only as a last resort, we anticipate that only a small proportion of the hospitals that apply for a new base year will be assigned one. Thus, while assignment of a new base year could represent a significant change in payments to those hospitals that are granted one, we expect the overall impact on payments to hospitals excluded from the prospective payment system to be very small.

F. Impact of Additional Payments for Hemophilia Clotting Factors

Based on a recommendation from the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission (ProPAC), section 6011(a) of Public Law 101-239 was enacted. That section amended section 1886(a)(4) of the Act to exclude the cost of hemophilia blood clotting factor from the definition of hospital inpatient operating cost. Section 6011(b) of Public Law 101-239 directs the Secretary to determine the amount of additional payments to be made to hospitals for blood clotting factor. As discussed in section II.F. of the preamble to this document, we have established prices

for three clotting factors. They are as follows:

Factor VIII—\$.64 per unit

Factor IX—\$.26 per unit

All other Factors (Anti-inhibitors)—\$1.00 per unit

In its report, ProPAC identified 2,239 Medicare hemophilia inpatient discharges in 1987 and 2,152 discharges in 1988. Applying the percentage of Medicare hemophilia inpatients to total hemophilia patients, ProPAC estimated that Medicare hemophilia inpatients utilized about 8 million units of clotting factor during the latest 12-month period for which data are available. Based on ProPAC's data, we expect the number of hemophilia discharges and the Medicare consumption of blood clotting factor to remain fairly constant over the next 2 years.

From discussions with industry representatives, we estimate that Factor VIII will account for 75 percent of the total blood clotting factor administered to Medicare hemophilia inpatients and that Factor IX and the Anti-inhibitors will constitute roughly equal shares of the other 25 percent. Based on these utilization rates, we estimate the annual impact on the Medicare program will be additional payments of about \$5.0 million.

While we are unable to determine the impact of the additional payments for the clotting factor on hospitals treating Medicare hemophilia inpatients, we believe they will adequately compensate hospitals for providing clotting factor to Medicare inpatients. Furthermore, the ProPAC report suggests that the overall impact will be minimal for most hospitals treating Medicare hemophilia patients. Of the almost 950 hospitals that treated Medicare hemophilia inpatients in 1987 and 1988, approximately 92 percent of these hospitals discharged between one and five Medicare hemophilia inpatients. Thus, for the majority of hospitals that treat Medicare hemophilia inpatients, the additional payments for hemophilia clotting factor should not make a significant difference in the total amount of payments these hospitals receive from Medicare.

G. Impact of New Provision Concerning Hospital-Based Nursing Schools

Section 6205(a)(2) of Public Law 101-239 establishes a new, temporary category of "hospital-based nursing schools." The criteria specified in the law for qualifying under this new category are—

- If before June 15, 1989, and for every year thereafter, the hospital incurred at

least 50 percent of the costs of training nursing students at the school;

- The nursing school and hospital share some common board members; and

- All nursing instruction takes place at the hospital.

This category is to be effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after the date of enactment of Public Law 101-239 (December 19, 1989) and expire with cost reporting periods beginning on or after the date the Secretary issues final regulations that specify—

- The relationship required between an approved nursing education or allied health education program and a hospital for the program's costs to be attributed to the hospital;

- The types of costs related to nursing or allied health education programs;

- The distinction between costs of approved educational activities paid on the basis of reasonable cost and educational costs treated as operating costs of inpatient hospital services; and

- The treatment of other funding sources for the program.

We cannot quantify the impact of these provisions. However, based on our experience in auditing hospital educational costs, we believe that only a very few hospitals will meet the criteria outlined in section 6205 of Public Law 101-239. Based on this perception of the number of hospitals affected by this provision, we expect the impact on the Medicare program to be minimal.

H. Quantitative Impact Analysis of the Final Policy Changes on Prospective Payment Hospitals

1. Basis and Methodology of Estimates

The data used in developing the following quantitative analysis of changes in payments, presented in Table I below, are taken from FY 1988 billing data and hospital-specific data for FY 1986 and FY 1987. As in previous analyses, we compared the effects of changes being implemented in this document to our estimate of the payment amounts under policies in effect on January 1, 1990.

In addition, we have treated all hospitals in our data base as if they have cost reporting periods that coincide with the Federal fiscal year. By establishing the same cost reporting period for all hospitals, we can show the effect of policy changes on payments for comparable 12-month periods. Treating all hospitals as though they had the same cost reporting period, however, will overstate the first year impact of those provisions applying to the

selection of payment rates for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals. Yet without assuming the same cost reporting period for all hospitals in our database, we could not display the full effects of these new payment provisions for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals. In actuality, these provisions will be phased in with cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990, and, therefore, their full impact on hospital payments will not be felt until April 1, 1991.

Another element our analysis does not take into account is any behavioral changes hospitals may adopt in response to the policy changes being implemented in this final rule.

The tables and the discussion that follow reflect our best effort to identify and quantify the effects of the changes being implemented in this document. It should be noted, however, that as a result of gaps in our data, we are unable to quantify some of the effects of the changes contained in this rule. Also, we could not categorize all the hospitals in our data base because in some cases the hospital-specific data necessary for

constructing our impact model were missing. For some hospitals data on hospital bed size and type of ownership were missing. The missing data, however, did not prevent us from using the discharges from these hospitals to estimate the actual payments for FY 1990 and the projected payments under the new policies that serve as the bases of our simulation.

The following analysis examines, in column 1 of Table I, the effect of the provisions granting alternative payment rates for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals. In column 2 of Table I, we show the effects of the changes in the qualifying criteria for disproportionate share hospitals and the changes in formulas for determining additional payments to these hospitals. That is, in columns 1 and 2, all variables except those associated with the provision under examination were held constant so as to display the effects of each provision compared to the baseline (January 1, 1990) provisions. In the last column (column 3), we present the combined effect of all changes being implemented in this final rule. That is, column 3 displays the combined effects

of the previous two columns as well as changes in the wage index reflecting the enactment of section 6003(h) of Public Law 101-234 that amended section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act. As such, this last column is the only one in which the effects of all the quantifiable payment policy changes on simulated FY 1990 payments are reflected.

Consistent with the display of the impact presented in Table I below, the following discussion of the impact simulation results is divided into three parts. The first and second parts describe the effects of two major changes being implemented in this document. These are as follows:

- Alternative payment rates for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals as provided for in sections 1886(d)(5)(D) and (d)(5)(G) of the Act; and
- The changes to the qualifying criteria and payment formula for disproportionate share hospitals under section 1886(d)(5)(F) of the Act.

The third part discusses the combined effect of all provisions being implemented in this rule.

TABLE I.—IMPACT OF THE CHANGES BEING IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1990

	Number of hospitals ¹	Column 1, Medicare dependent/sole community hospitals ²	Column 2, disproportionate share payments ²	Column 3, all changes ²
All Hospitals.....	5,688	0.3	0.6	0.8
Urban by Region:				
New England.....	182	0.0	0.3	0.3
Middle Atlantic.....	482	0.0	0.7	0.7
South Atlantic.....	444	0.1	0.6	0.7
East North Central.....	540	0.0	0.4	0.4
East South Central.....	179	0.0	0.6	0.6
West North Central.....	200	0.0	0.2	0.2
West South Central.....	374	0.0	0.9	0.8
Mountain.....	119	0.1	0.3	0.3
Pacific.....	515	0.0	0.8	0.7
Puerto Rico.....	50	0.0	2.3	2.3
Rural by Region:				
New England.....	61	4.6	0.1	4.7
Middle Atlantic.....	91	1.6	0.0	1.6
South Atlantic.....	343	0.8	1.3	2.1
East North Central.....	332	1.0	0.0	1.0
East South Central.....	309	1.1	1.4	2.5
West North Central.....	578	2.5	0.1	2.6
West South Central.....	434	2.0	0.5	2.5
Mountain.....	251	4.6	0.0	4.6
Pacific.....	166	2.5	0.0	2.5
Puerto Rico.....	8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Large Urban Areas (populations over 1 million).....	1,548	0.0	0.7	0.6
Other Urban Areas (populations of 1 million or fewer).....	1,554	0.1	0.5	0.5
Urban Hospitals.....	3,102	0.0	0.6	0.6
0-99 Beds.....	701	0.2	0.0	0.4
100-199 Beds.....	797	0.0	0.6	0.7
200-299 Beds.....	604	0.0	0.5	0.5
300-499 Beds.....	644	0.1	0.6	0.5
400+ Beds.....	292	0.0	0.7	0.6
Rural Hospitals.....	2,586	1.8	0.5	2.3
0-49 Beds.....	1,061	4.4	0.1	4.5
50-99 Beds.....	832	2.9	0.0	2.9
100-149 Beds.....	367	1.1	0.5	1.6

TABLE I.—IMPACT OF THE CHANGES BEING IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1990—Continued

	Number of hospitals ¹	Column 1, Medicare dependent/sole community hospitals ²	Column 2, disproportionate share payments ³	Column 3, all changes ⁴
150-200 Beds.....	150	1.1	0.9	1.9
200+ Beds.....	149	0.7	1.0	1.7
Teaching Status:				
Non-Teaching.....	4,496	0.6	0.4	1.0
Resident/Bed Ratio Less than 0.25.....	963	0.0	0.5	0.5
Resident/Bed Ratio 0.25 or Greater.....	227	0.0	1.3	1.2
Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH):				
Non-DSH.....	4,110	0.5	0.0	0.5
Urban DSH:				
100 Beds or More.....	1,167	0.0	1.2	1.1
Fewer Than 100 Beds.....	81	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rural DSH:				
100 Beds or More—not Rural Referral Centers or Sole Community Hospitals.....	83	0.0	2.8	2.7
Fewer than 100 beds—not Rural Referral Centers or Sole Community Hospitals.....	174	0.3	0.0	0.3
Sole Community Hospitals.....	41	8.2	5.2	14.0
Rural Referral Centers and Sole Community Hospitals or Rural Referral Centers.....	32	1.0	5.9	6.8
Urban Teaching and DSH:				
Both Teaching and DSH.....	609	0.0	1.3	1.2
Teaching and No DSH.....	498	0.0	0.0	0.0
No Teaching and DSH.....	639	0.0	1.1	1.0
No Teaching and No DSH.....	1,356	0.1	0.0	0.2
Other Special Status (Rural):				
Sole Community Hospitals.....	308	9.4	0.6	10.1
Rural Referral Centers.....	195	0.0	1.0	1.0
Sole Community & Rural Referral.....	23	8.3	0.3	8.5
Medicare-Dependent.....	608	6.8	0.0	6.9
Type of Ownership:				
Voluntary.....	3,116	0.2	0.4	0.7
Proprietary.....	918	0.3	0.5	0.7
Government.....	1,555	0.6	1.2	1.7
Medicare Utilization as Percent of Inpatient Days:				
0-25.....	400	0.1	2.4	2.3
25-50.....	2,983	0.2	0.6	0.7
50-65.....	1,737	0.5	0.2	0.7
Over 65.....	408	1.6	0.0	1.6

¹ Because data necessary to classify some hospitals by category were missing, some hospitals were omitted from the analysis. Therefore, the total number of hospitals in each category may not equal the national total.

² Data for the analysis of the payment alternatives granted under section 1886(d)(5)(D)(i) of the Act as amended by sections 6003 (e) and (f) of Public Law 101-239 come from FY 1986 and 1987 hospital cost reports. We determined for the approximately 970 Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals and sole community hospitals in our database which payment alternative would provide the highest payment amount. Our payment determinations and those which each hospital's intermediary will make may differ because the intermediary will have the most recent hospital cost reports.

³ Payment simulation of disproportionate share hospitals is based on 1988 discharge data and hospital cost report data for FY 1986 and FY 1987. The baseline for those sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals that qualify for disproportionate share payments is the new payment methodology as provided for in sections 6003 (e) and (f) of Public Law 101-239 (analyzed in Column 1).

⁴ Column 3 includes combined payment alternatives for Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals and sole community hospitals; new payment provisions for disproportionate share hospitals; and changes to the hospital wage index required by section 1886(d)(8)(C) of the Act as amended by section 6003(h) of Pub. L. 101-239.

2. Impact Simulation Results

a. *Impact on Sole Community Hospitals (SCHs) and Medicare-Dependent, Small Rural Hospitals.* Section 6003(e) of Public Law 101-239 revised the payment methodology for hospitals classified as SCHs effective with hospital cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990. As of that date, as provided in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(i) of the Act, SCHs will be paid based on whichever of the following rates yields the highest aggregate payment for the cost reporting period.

- The Federal rate applicable to the hospital.
- The updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 1982 cost per discharge.
- The updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 1987 cost per discharge.

In a similar provision, section 6003(f) of Public Law 101-239, which added a new section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Act, creates a new category of hospitals under the prospective payment system eligible for a special payment adjustment. The adjustment is limited to Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals and is effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990 and ending on or before March 31, 1993. Section 6003(f) of Public Law 101-239 provides Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals the same payment options afforded to sole community hospitals under section 6003(e) of Public Law 101-239. In section II.D. of this preamble, we discuss, in detail, the criteria for being classified as a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital.

In our analysis of these provisions, we compared payments under our regulations in effect before April 1, 1990 with projected payments under the regulations that were effective on April 1, 1990 for sole community hospitals and hospitals we identified as meeting the criteria for a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital based on the FY 1986, FY 1987 and FY 1988 cost reports that were available to us.

As part of our simulation we had to determine which of the three payment alternatives provided for in the law would produce the highest payment for each of the sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals for which we had cost report data. Based on the available cost report data for each hospital, we compared payments based on the hospital-specific

payment amount using FY 1982 and FY 1987 base period costs to the total payment amount the hospital would receive based on the Federal standardized payment amount. That is, we examined the effects of changing only the payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals while holding all other variables at their pre-April 1, 1990 levels.

The following summarizes our determinations with respect to the method of payment used in simulating payments to Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals:

- 25 percent of the identifiable Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals will be paid a hospital-specific rate based on their FY 1982 cost reporting period.
 - 22.2 percent of the hospitals will be paid a hospital-specific rate based on their FY 1987 cost reporting period.
 - 52.8 percent of the hospitals will be paid the Federal national payment rate.
- We made similar determinations for all sole community hospitals (including sole community hospitals that are also rural referral centers) concerning which method of payment would result in the highest payment for each hospital. Using the available cost report data, we determined that—
- 44.7 percent of all sole community hospitals will be paid a hospital-specific rate based on their FY 1982 cost reporting period;
 - 28.8 percent of all sole community hospitals will be paid a hospital-specific rate based on their FY 1987 cost reporting period; and
 - 26.5 percent will be paid the Federal payment rate.

Overall, the provisions of sections 6003 (e) and (f) of Public Law 101-239 will raise the national average payment to hospitals by 0.3 percent. The impact of these changes, however, will be concentrated on the approximately 970 hospitals we have identified as being either a sole community or a Medicare-dependent small rural hospital.

We anticipate that payments to hospitals that qualify as Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals will increase by about 6.8 percent. Payments to sole community hospitals and sole community hospitals that are also rural referral centers are expected to increase by 9.4 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively. Payment to sole community hospitals that also qualify as disproportionate share hospitals will increase by 8.2 percent. However, sole community hospitals that are also rural referral centers and disproportionate share hospitals can expect only a 1.0 percent increase in payments.

Since sections 6003 (e) and (f) of Public Law 101-239 are intended primarily to benefit rural hospitals, rural hospitals in all bed-size groupings are projected to receive increases, with hospitals having fewer than 50 beds receiving the largest percentage increases of 4.4 percent.

Our geographic analysis shows the largest percentage increase in payments concentrated in the rural portions of the Mountain and New England census divisions. We are projecting both areas to receive a payment increase of about 4.6 percent. However, because we have identified 14 sole community hospitals located in urban areas, average payments to urban hospitals in the south Atlantic and Mountain census division are projected to increase 0.1 percent.

b. *Impact on Disproportionate Share Hospitals.* Section 6003(c)(2) of Public Law 101-239 amended section 1886(d)(5)(F)(v) of the Act by adding an additional criterion for qualifying as a disproportionate share hospital. A hospital will qualify for disproportionate share payments if it is located in a rural area, is classified as a sole community hospital or has more than 100 beds, and its disproportionate share patient percentage during the current cost reporting year is 30 percent.

Sections 6003(c) (2) and (3) of Public Law 101-239 amended section 1886(d)(5)(F) of the Act by providing increased payments to hospitals for their disproportionate share patients. Section II.C. of this preamble describes in detail the changes in the payment formulas.

In this analysis, except for those sole community hospitals (and sole community hospitals that are also rural referral centers) that now qualify for disproportionate share payments, we compared only the changes in disproportionate share payments that are effective on April 1, 1990 with disproportionate share payments based on policies in effect before April 1, 1990. For sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals that qualify for disproportionate share payments, we compared projected April 1, 1990 disproportionate share payment amounts to payments based on the standardized Federal payment amount as the baseline payment level rather than the payment blend of 75 percent hospital-specific amount and 25 percent standardized Federal payment amount that was in effect before April 1, 1990. We adopted this approach for sole community hospitals because section 1886(d)(5)(F)(ii) of the Act requires that only those hospitals that receive payment based on the Federal payment

amount can receive additional payments for treating disproportionate share patients. As discussed in the previous section of this impact analysis and in section II.D. of the preamble to this rule, sections 6003 (e) and (f) of Public Law 101-239 allow sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals to be paid the higher of the Federal standardized rate or a hospital-specific rate. We believe that an impact analysis of the increase in disproportionate share payments for qualifying sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals is more fairly presented by comparing the increase in disproportionate share payments to a baseline reflecting the payment alternatives contained in sections 6003 (e) and (f) of Public Law 101-239 (that is, the Federal standardized amount) rather than to the pre-April 1, 1990 baseline.

This analysis shows that 41 sole community hospitals paid on the basis of the Federal rate will also be eligible for the increased payments for rural disproportionate share hospitals. We project that these sole community hospitals will receive a 5.2 percent increase in payments as a result of the changes in the disproportionate share payment policies.

The largest percentage increase in disproportionate share payments is expected to go to hospitals that are classified as rural referral centers or as both rural referral centers and sole community hospitals. We expect these hospitals to receive an average payment increase of about 5.9 percent.

In terms of hospital bed size, hospitals in all but two bed size categories are expected to receive payment increases. The two categories that will not receive payment increases are urban hospitals with fewer than 100 beds, and rural hospitals with between 50 and 99 beds.

Geographically, the payment increase will be distributed widely among hospitals located in urban areas. The projected average percentage increase in payments for all hospitals in urban areas is 0.6 percent, with increases in 7 of the 10 geographic regions displayed in Table I expected to equal or exceed 0.6 percent. Urban hospitals in the other three geographical regions are expected to receive increases of between 0.2 and 0.4 percent. The largest percentage increase of 2.3 percent is projected for urban hospitals in Puerto Rico.

The average payment increase for all rural hospitals is expected to be 0.5 percent. In contrast to the broad increases for urban hospitals, increases for rural hospitals will be concentrated in the East South Central and South

Atlantic census divisions. These areas are expected to receive increases averaging 1.4 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

c. *Combined Impact of All Changes.* Column 3 of table I presents the combined effects of all changes being implemented in this final rule. That is, column 3 combines the changes in payments for Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals and sole community hospitals, and the changes in qualifying criteria and payment formulas for disproportionate share hospitals. In addition, column 3 includes the effects of revising the wage index values for hospitals located in certain rural counties adjacent to urban areas as required by section 1886(d)(8)(C) of the Act, as amended by section 6003(h) of Public Law 101-239 and changes in the outlier offset for urban hospitals.

At the national level, the effect of all provisions being implemented in this final rule is to increase the average payment to hospitals by 0.8 percent. As expected, the largest payment increases

go to sole community hospitals that also qualify as disproportionate share hospitals. We estimate that they will receive an average payment increase of 14.0 percent. Overall, sole community hospitals are expected to receive a 10.1 percent increase in payments. Hospitals identified in our database as Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals can expect an increase of 6.9 percent. As a result of the changes being implemented in this final rule, average payments to all rural hospitals are projected to rise 2.3 percent, with rural hospitals with fewer than 50 beds expected to receive a 4.5 percent increase. Average payments to urban hospitals will increase by 0.6 percent, with urban hospitals with between 100 and 199 beds receiving a 0.7 percent increase in payments.

Our impact analysis of the census divisions shows that rural hospitals in the New England census division will receive the largest payment increase of 4.7 percent. Urban hospitals in the Puerto Rico will receive the largest increase among urban hospitals. We

expect these hospitals to receive an average increase of about 2.3 percent.

As a final point, there are interactions that result from the combining of the various separate provisions analyzed in the previous columns that we are unable to isolate. Thus, the values appearing in column 3 do not represent merely the additive effects of the previous columns, but include certain interactive effects that we are not able to isolate.

Table II presents the projected average payments per case that are effective April 1, 1990 for urban and rural hospitals and for the different categories of hospitals shown in table I and compares them with the average estimated per case payments that were effective January 1, 1990. As such, this table presents, in terms of the average dollar amounts paid per discharge, the combined effects of the changes presented in table I. That is, the percentage change in average payments from January 1, 1990 to April 1, 1990 equals the percentage changes shown in the last column of table I.

TABLE II—COMPARISON OF PAYMENT PER CASE (JANUARY 1, 1990 COMPARED TO APRIL 1, 1990)

	Number of hospitals	Column 1 average payment per case Jan. 1, 1990	Column 2 average payment per case Apr. 1, 1990	Column 3 all changes ¹
All hospitals.....	5,688	\$4,788	\$4,828	0.8
Urban by Region:				
New England.....	182	5,427	5,441	0.3
Middle Atlantic.....	482	5,669	5,707	0.7
South Atlantic.....	444	4,798	4,832	0.7
East North Central.....	540	5,158	5,180	0.4
East South Central.....	179	4,449	4,475	0.6
West North Central.....	200	5,314	5,327	0.2
West South Central.....	374	4,829	4,888	0.8
Mountain.....	119	5,197	5,213	0.3
Pacific.....	515	6,022	6,066	0.7
Puerto Rico.....	50	2,072	2,120	2.3
Rural by Region:				
New England.....	61	3,738	3,914	4.7
Middle Atlantic.....	91	3,509	3,564	1.6
South Atlantic.....	343	3,182	3,249	2.1
East North Central.....	332	3,207	3,239	1.0
East South Central.....	309	2,752	2,821	2.5
West North Central.....	578	2,982	3,080	2.6
West South Central.....	434	2,890	2,963	2.5
Mountain.....	251	3,300	3,451	4.6
Pacific.....	166	3,876	3,972	2.5
Puerto Rico.....	8	1,558	1,558	0.0
Large urban areas (population over 1 million).....	1,548	5,704	5,740	0.6
Other urban areas (population of 1 million or fewer).....	1,554	4,754	4,779	0.5
Urban hospitals.....	3,102	5,239	5,270	0.6
0-99 beds.....	701	3,950	3,986	0.4
100-199 beds.....	797	4,475	4,506	0.7
200-299 beds.....	604	4,872	4,897	0.5
300-499 beds.....	644	5,316	5,346	0.5
Over 400 beds.....	292	6,274	6,314	0.6
Rural hospitals.....	2,586	3,128	3,201	2.3
0-49 beds.....	1,061	2,686	2,807	4.5
50-99 beds.....	832	2,872	2,956	2.9
100-149 beds.....	367	3,096	3,146	1.6
150-200 beds.....	150	3,295	3,359	1.9
Over 200 beds.....	149	3,653	3,714	1.7
Teaching Status:				
Non-teaching resident/bed ratio.....	4,496	4,004	4,045	1.0
Less than 0.25 resident/bed ratio.....	963	5,277	5,301	0.5
0.25 or greater.....	227	7,860	7,953	1.2

TABLE II—COMPARISON OF PAYMENT PER CASE (JANUARY 1, 1990 COMPARED TO APRIL 1, 1990)—Continued

	Number of hospitals	Column 1 average payment per case Jan. 1, 1990	Column 2 average payment per case Apr. 1, 1990	Column 3 all changes ¹
Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH):				
Non-DSH.....	4,110	4,373	4,394	0.5
Urban DSH:				
100 beds or more.....	1,167	5,754	5,819	1.1
Fewer than 100 beds.....	81	3,637	3,637	0.0
Rural DSH:				
100 beds or more—not rural referral centers or sole community hospitals.....	83	2,843	2,921	2.7
Fewer than 100 beds—not rural referral centers or sole community hospitals.....	174	2,563	2,572	0.3
Sole community hospitals.....	41	2,840	3,237	14.0
Sole community & rural referral center or rural referral centers.....	32	3,721	3,973	6.8
Urban Teaching and DSH:				
Both teaching and DSH.....	609	6,351	6,426	1.2
Teaching and no DSH.....	498	5,449	5,449	0.0
No teaching and DSH.....	639	4,681	4,730	1.1
No teaching and no DSH.....	1,356	4,410	4,418	0.2
Other Special Status (rural):				
Sole community hospital.....	308	3,157	3,476	10.1
Rural referral center (RRC).....	195	3,732	3,770	1.0
Sole community and rural referral center.....	23	3,723	4,041	8.5
Medicare-dependent.....	608	2,703	2,688	6.9
Type of Ownership:				
Voluntary.....	3,116	4,959	4,992	0.7
Proprietary.....	918	4,280	4,312	0.7
Government.....	1,555	4,367	4,443	1.7
Medicare Utilization As Percent of Inpatient Days:				
0-25.....	400	6,320	6,468	2.3
25-50.....	2,983	5,005	5,040	0.7
50-65.....	1,737	4,227	4,258	0.7
Over 65.....	408	4,038	4,104	1.6

¹ Percentage changes shown in this column are taken from Table 1, column 3. Because the dollar amounts shown in this table are rounded to the nearest dollar, percentage changes computed on the basis of the amounts in columns 1 and 2 of this table will differ slightly from those displayed in this column.

VI. Other Required Information

A. Effective Dates

The effective date of this final rule (including the addendum) is April 1, 1990. Changes made by section 101(c) of Public Law 101-234 (eliminating the outlier payments attributable to catastrophic coverage) are applicable to discharges occurring on or after January 1, 1990 and changes required by section 101(d) of Public Law 101-234 to target rates for hospitals excluded from the prospective payment system are applicable for cost reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 1990. Changes made by the following sections are applicable for discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990: section 6003(c)(2) of Public Law 101-239 (disproportionate share adjustments) and section 6003(h) of Public Law 101-239 (wage index revisions for rural counties whose hospitals are deemed urban). Changes made by the following sections of Public Law 101-239 are applicable for cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990: section 6015 (ceiling on rate of hospital cost increases); section 6003(f) (Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals); and, section 6003(e) (sole community hospitals). Changes made by section 6011 of Public Law 101-239

(administering blood clotting factors to hemophiliacs, who are inpatients) are applicable for discharges occurring on or after June 19, 1990. Changes made by section 6205(a) of Public Law 101-239 (recognition of hospital-based nursing school costs) are effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after December 19, 1989.

B. Waiver of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and 30-Day Delay in the Effective Date

We ordinarily publish a notice of proposed rulemaking for a regulation to provide a period for public comment. However we may waive that procedure if we find good cause that prior notice and comment are impractical, unnecessary, or contrary to public interest. In addition, section 1871(b)(2)(B) of the Act provides that the notice of proposed rulemaking is not required if a statute establishes a specific deadline for implementation that is less than 150 days from enactment. Because several provisions of Public Law 101-239, enacted December 19, 1989, and several provisions of Public Law 101-234, enacted December 14, 1989, contained in this final rule require implementation within 150 days, we are implementing this final rule without first issuing a

notice of proposed rulemaking. However, we are providing a 60-day comment period for public comment, as indicated at the beginning of this final rule.

In addition, we normally provide a delay of 30 days in the effective date for documents such as this. However, if adherence to this procedure would be impractical, unnecessary, or contrary to public interest, we may waive the delay in the effective date. Under the clear direction contained in Public Law 101-239, the effective date for the majority of the provisions included in this final rule is April 1, 1990, just as several provisions of Public Law 102-234 went into effect on January 1, 1990. In general, the provisions of Public Law 101-239 implemented in this final rule are beneficial to most hospitals. If we were to provide for a 30-day delay in the effective date for these changes, most hospitals would be deprived of the full benefits of these provisions. Thus, a 30-day delay in the effective date would be contrary to the public interest. Therefore, we find good cause to waive the usual 30-day delay.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

This final rule does not impose information collection requirements. Consequently, it need not be reviewed

by the Executive Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 through 3511).

D. Public Comments

Because of the large number of items of correspondence we normally receive concerning regulations, we cannot acknowledge or respond to the comments individually. However, if we decide that changes are necessary as a result of our consideration of all comments received by the date and time specified in the "DATES" section of this preamble, we will respond to the comments and issue any appropriate changes in the final rule that implements changes to the inpatient hospital prospective payment system and sets forth the FY 1991 rates, which will be published on approximately September 1, 1990.

List of Subjects

42 CFR Part 412

Health facilities, Medicare, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

42 CFR Part 413

Health facilities, Kidney diseases, Medicare, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

42 CFR chapter IV is amended as set forth below:

CHAPTER IV—HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Subchapter B—Medicare Program

I. Part 412 is amended as follows:

PART 412—PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR INPATIENT HOSPITAL SERVICES

A. The authority citation for part 412 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 1102, 1122, 1815(e), 1871, and 1886 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302, 1320a-1, 1395g(e), 1395hh, and 1395ww).

B. In subpart A, § 412.2, the introductory text in paragraph (e) is revised and a new paragraph (e)(7) is added to read as follows:

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 412.2 Basis of payment.

(e) *Additional payments to hospitals.* In addition to payments based on the prospective payment rates, hospitals receive payments for the following:

(7) For discharges on or after June 19, 1990 and before December 19, 1991, a payment amount per unit for blood

clotting factor provided to Medicare inpatients who are hemophiliacs.

C. In subpart D, § 412.63, paragraph (h) is revised; paragraphs (i), (j), and (k) are redesignated as paragraphs (j), (k), and (l), respectively; and a new paragraph (i) is added, to read as follows:

Subpart D—Basic Methodology for Determining Federal Prospective Payment Rates

§ 412.63 Federal rates for fiscal years after Federal fiscal year 1984.

(h) *Applicable percentage change for fiscal year 1990.* (1) The applicable percentage change for fiscal year 1990 is—

(i) For discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1989 and before January 1, 1990, 5.5 percent; and

(ii) For discharges occurring on or after January 1, 1990 and before October 1, 1990—

(A) 9.72 percent for hospitals located in rural areas;

(B) 5.62 percent for hospitals located in large urban areas; and

(C) 4.97 percent for hospitals located in other urban areas.

(2) For purposes of determining the standardized amounts for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1990, the applicable percentage change for fiscal year 1990 is deemed to have been the percentage change provided for in paragraph (h)(1)(ii) of this section.

(i) *Applicable percentage change for fiscal year 1991 and following.* The applicable percentage change for fiscal year 1991 and each subsequent fiscal year for hospitals in all areas is the percentage increase in the market basket index (as described in § 413.40(c)(3)(ii)).

D. Subpart E is amended as follows:

Subpart E—Determination of Transition Period Payment Rates

1. In § 412.73, the title is revised to read "Determination of the hospital-specific rate based on a Federal fiscal year 1982 base period."; paragraph (c)(6) is revised; and new paragraphs (c)(7) and (c)(8) are added to read as follows:

§ 412.73 Determination of the hospital-specific rate based on a Federal fiscal year 1982 base period.

(c) *Updating base-year costs.* * * *

(6) *For Federal fiscal year 1989.* For cost reporting periods beginning in Federal fiscal year 1989, the update factor is determined using the methodology set forth in § 412.63(g).

(7) *For Federal fiscal year 1990.* (i) For cost reporting periods beginning in Federal fiscal year 1990, the base-period cost per discharge is updated as follows:

(A) For cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1989 and before January 1, 1990, by 5.5 percent for discharges occurring before January 1, 1990 and by the factors set forth in paragraph (c)(7)(i)(B) of this section for discharges occurring on or after January 1, 1990.

(B) For cost reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 1990 and before October 1, 1990, by—

(1) 9.72 percent for hospitals located in rural areas;

(2) 5.62 percent for hospitals located in large urban areas; and

(3) 4.97 percent for hospitals located in other urban areas.

(ii) For purposes of determining the updated base-period costs for cost reporting periods beginning in Federal fiscal year 1991 (that is, beginning on or after October 1, 1990 and before October 1, 1991), the update factor for the cost reporting period beginning during Federal fiscal year 1990 is deemed to have been the percentage change provided for in paragraph (c)(7)(i)(B) of this section.

(8) *For Federal fiscal years 1991 and following.* For Federal fiscal years 1991 and following, the update factor is determined using the methodology set forth in § 412.63(i).

2. A new § 412.75 is added to read as follows:

§ 412.75 Determination of the hospital-specific rate based on a Federal fiscal year 1987 base period.

(a) *Base period costs.* (1) For each hospital, the intermediary determines the hospital's Medicare Part A allowable inpatient operating costs, as described in § 412.2(c), for the 12-month or longer cost reporting period ending on or after September 30, 1987 and before September 30, 1988.

(2) If the hospital's last cost reporting period ending before September 30, 1988 is for less than 12 months, the base period is the hospital's most recent 12-month or longer cost reporting period ending before the short period report.

(b) *Costs on a per discharge basis.* The intermediary determines the hospital's average base-period operating cost per discharge by dividing the total operating costs by the number of discharges in the base period.

(c) *Case-mix adjustment.* The intermediary divides the average base-period cost per discharge by the

hospital's case-mix index for the base period.

(d) *Updating base-period costs.* For purposes of determining the updated base-period costs for cost reporting periods beginning in Federal fiscal year 1988, the update factor is determined using the methodology set forth in § 412.73 (c)(5) through (c)(8) of § 412.63.

(e) *DRG adjustment.* The applicable hospital-specific cost per discharge will be multiplied by the appropriate DRG weighting factor to determine the hospital-specific base payment amount (target amount) for a particular covered discharge.

(f) *Modification of base-period costs.* (1) The intermediary may modify base-period costs to take into account additional costs recognized as allowable costs for the hospital's base-period as the result of any of the following:

(i) A reopening and revision of the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement under §§ 405.1885 through 405.1889 of this chapter.

(ii) A prehearing order or finding issued during the provider payment appeals process by the appropriate reviewing authority under § 405.1821 or § 405.1853 of this chapter that resolved a matter at issue in the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement.

(iii) An affirmation, modification, or reversal of a Provider Reimbursement Review Board decision by the Administrator of HCFA under § 405.1875 of this chapter that resolved a matter at issue in the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement.

(iv) An administrative or judicial review decision under §§ 405.1831, 405.1871, or 405.1877 of this chapter that is final and no longer subject to review under applicable law or regulations by a higher reviewing authority, and that resolved a matter at issue in the hospital's base-period notice of amount of program reimbursement.

(v) A final, nonappealable court judgment relating to the base-period costs.

(2) The intermediary recalculates the hospital's base-period costs to reflect the modification determined appropriate under paragraph (f)(1) of this section and the adjustments are effective retroactively to the time of the intermediary's initial determination of base-period costs.

Subpart F—Payment for Outlier Cases

§ 412.84 [Amended]

E. In subpart F, in the first sentence of § 412.84(h), the word "annually" is removed.

F. Subpart G is amended as follows:

Subpart G—Special Treatment of Certain Facilities

1. In § 412.90, a new paragraph (i) is added to read as follows:

§ 412.90 General rules.

(i) *Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals.* For cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990, and ending before April 1, 1993, HCFA adjusts the prospective payment rates determined under subparts D and E of this part if a hospital is classified as a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital. Criteria for identifying these hospitals are set forth in § 412.108.

2. In § 412.92, the introductory text of paragraph (a) and paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (d)(1) are revised; the first sentence in paragraph (e) is revised by deleting the words "and before October 1, 1990"; the existing introductory text of paragraph (e)(3)(i) is redesignated as paragraph (e)(3)(i)(A); the existing paragraph (e)(3)(i)(A) is redesignated as the introductory text of paragraph (e)(3)(i); and the first sentence in paragraph (f) is amended by removing the words "and before October 1, 1990".

§ 412.92 Special treatment: Sole community hospitals.

(a) *Criteria or classification as a sole community hospital.* HCFA classifies a hospital as a sole community hospital if it is located in a rural area (as defined in § 412.63(b)) and meets one of the following conditions.

(b) *Classification procedures.* * * *

(2) *Effective dates of classification.* (i) Sole community hospital status is effective 30 days after the date of HCFA's written notification of approval.

(d) *Determining prospective payment rates for sole community hospitals.*—(1) *General rule.* For cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990, a sole community hospital is paid based on whichever of the following amounts yields the greatest aggregate payment for the cost reporting period:

(i) The Federal payment rate applicable to the hospitals as determined under § 412.63, subject to the regional floor defined in § 412.70(c)(6).

(ii) The hospital-specific rate as determined under § 412.73.

(iii) The hospital-specific rate as determined under § 412.75.

§ 412.96 [Amended]

3. In § 412.96(b)(1)(ii), the number "25" is changed to "275".

4. In § 412.106, the introductory texts of paragraphs (c) and (c)(1) are republished; paragraphs (c)(1) (ii) and (iii) are redesignated as paragraphs (c)(1) (iii) and (iv); a new paragraph (c)(1)(ii) is added; newly redesignated paragraph (c)(1)(iv) is revised; paragraph (d)(1) is revised; paragraph (d)(2) is removed; and paragraph (d)(3) is redesignated as paragraph (d)(2) and revised to read as follows:

§ 412.106 Special treatment: Hospitals that service a disproportionate share of low-income patients.

(c) *Criteria for classification.* A hospital is classified as a "disproportionate share" hospital under any of the following circumstances:

(1) The hospital's disproportionate patient percentage, as determined under paragraph (b)(5) of this section, is at least equal to one of the following: * * *

(ii) 30 percent, if the hospital is located in a rural area and either has more than 100 beds and fewer than 500 beds or is classified as a sole community hospital under § 412.92 of this subpart.

(iv) 45 percent, if the hospital is located in a rural area and has 100 or fewer beds.

(d) *Payment adjustment.*—(1) *Method of adjustment.* If a hospital serves a disproportionate number of low-income patients, its total DRG revenues are increased by an adjustment factor as specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(2) *Payment adjustment factors.* (i) If the hospital meets the criteria of paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, the payment adjustment factor is equal to one of the following:

(A) If the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage is greater than 20.2 percent, the payment adjustment factor is 5.62 percent plus 65 percent of the difference between 20.2 percent and the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage.

(B) If the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage is less than 20.2 percent, the payment adjustment factor is 2.5 percent plus 60 percent of the difference between 15 percent and the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage.

(ii) If the hospital meets the criteria of paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, the payment adjustment factor is equal to one of the following:

(A) If the hospital is classified as a rural referral center, the payment adjustment factor is 4 percent plus 60 percent of the difference between the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage and 30 percent.

(B) If the hospital is classified as a sole community hospital, the payment adjustment factor is 10 percent.

(C) If the hospital is classified as both a rural referral center and a sole community hospital, the payment adjustment factor is the greater of 10 percent or 4 percent plus 60 percent of the difference between the hospital's disproportionate patient percentage and 30 percent.

(D) If the hospital is not classified as either a sole community hospital or a rural referral center, the payment adjustment factor is 4 percent.

(iii) If the hospital meets the criteria of paragraph (c)(1)(iii) of this section, the payment adjustment factor is equal to 5 percent.

(iv) If the hospital meets the criteria of paragraph (c)(1)(iv) of this section, the payment adjustment factor is 4 percent.

(v) If the hospital meets the criteria of paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the payment adjustment factor is 30 percent.

5. A new § 412.108 is added to read as follows:

§ 412.108 Special treatment: Medicare-dependent, small rural hospitals.

(a) *Criteria for classification as a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital—* (1) *General considerations.* For cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990 and ending before April 1, 1993, a hospital is classified as a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital if it is located in a rural area (as defined in § 412.63(b)) and meets all the following conditions:

(i) The hospital has 100 or fewer beds as defined in § 412.118(b) during the cost reporting period.

(ii) The hospital is not also classified as a sole community hospital under § 412.92.

(iii) At least 60 percent of the hospital's inpatient days or discharges were attributable to individuals receiving Medicare Part A benefits during the hospital's 12-month or longer cost reporting period ending on or after September 30, 1987 and before September 30, 1988. If the hospital's last cost reporting period ending before September 30, 1988 is for less than 12 months, the hospital's most recent 12-month or longer cost reporting period ending before the short period is used.

(2) *Counting days and discharges.* In counting inpatient days and discharges for purposes of meeting the criteria in paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section, only

days and discharges from acute care inpatient stays are counted, including days and discharges from swing beds, but not including days and discharges from distinct part units excluded from the prospective payment system under §§ 412.25 through 412.32 or from newborn nursery units.

(b) *Classification procedures.* The fiscal intermediary determines whether a hospital meets the criteria in paragraph (a) of this section. If a hospital disagrees with an intermediary's decision, it should notify its intermediary and submit documentary evidence that it meets the criteria.

(c) *Payment methodology.* A hospital that meets the criteria in paragraph (a) of this section is paid based on whichever of the following amounts yields the greatest aggregate payment for the cost reporting period:

(1) The Federal payment rate applicable to the hospital as determined under § 412.63, subject to the regional floor defined in § 412.70(c)(6).

(2) The hospital-specific rate as determined under § 412.73.

(3) The hospital-specific rate as determined under § 412.75.

(d) *Additional payments to hospitals experiencing a significant volume decrease.* (1) HCFA provides for a payment adjustment for a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital for any cost reporting period during which the hospital experiences, due to circumstances as described in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, a more than 5 percent decrease in its total inpatient discharges as compared to its immediately preceding cost reporting period. If either the cost reporting period in question or the immediately preceding cost reporting period is other than a 12-month cost reporting period, the intermediary must convert the discharges to a monthly figure and multiply this figure by 12 to estimate the total number of discharges for a 12-month cost reporting period.

(2) To qualify for a payment adjustment on the basis of a decrease in discharges, a Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital must submit its request no later than 180 days after the date on the intermediary's Notice of Amount of Program Reimbursement and it must—

(i) Submit to the intermediary documentation demonstrating the size of the decrease in discharges and the resulting effect on per discharge costs; and

(ii) Show that the decrease is due to circumstances beyond the hospital's control.

(3) The intermediary determines a lump sum adjustment amount not to exceed the difference between the hospital's Medicare inpatient operating costs and the hospital's total DRG revenue based on DRG-adjusted prospective payment rates (including outlier payments determined under Subpart F of this part and additional payments made for hospitals that serve a disproportionate share of low-income patients as determined under § 412.106 and for indirect medical education costs as determined under § 412.118).

(i) In determining the adjustment amount, the intermediary considers—

(A) The individual hospital's needs and circumstances, including the reasonable cost of maintaining necessary core staff and services in view of minimum staffing requirements imposed by State agencies;

(B) The hospital's fixed (and semi-fixed) costs, other than those costs reimbursed on a reasonable cost basis under part 413 of this chapter; and

(C) The length of time the hospital has experienced a decrease in utilization.

(i) The intermediary makes its determination within 180 days from the date it receives the hospital's request and all other necessary information.

(ii) The intermediary determination is subject to review under subpart R of part 405 of this chapter.

G. In subpart H, § 412.115, a new paragraph (c) is added to read as follows:

Subpart H—Payments to Hospitals Under the Prospective Payment System

§ 412.115 Additional payments.

(c) *Administration of blood clotting factor.* For discharges on or after June 19, 1990, and before December 19, 1991, an additional payment is made to a hospital for each unit of blood clotting factor furnished to a Medicare inpatient who is hemophiliac.

II. 42 CFR part 413 is amended as follows:

PART 413—PRINCIPLES OF REASONABLE COST OF REIMBURSEMENT; PAYMENT FOR END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE SERVICES

A. The authority citation for part 413 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: Sec. 1102, 1814(b), 1815, 1833(a), 1861(v), 1871, 1881, and 1886 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302, 1395f(b), 1395g, 1395(a), 1395x(v), 1395hh, 1395rr, and 1395ww) and sec. 104(c) of Pub. L. 100-360 as amended by sec. 608(d)(3) of Pub. L. 100-485

(42 U.S.C. 1395ww (note)) and sec. 101(c) of Pub. L. 101-234.

B. In § 413.40, paragraph (i) is revised; and a new paragraph (j) is added to read as follows:

§ 413.40 Ceiling on rate of hospital cost increases.

(i) *Target amount revisions for the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-360)*—(1) *General rule.* For cost reporting periods or any portion of a cost reporting period occurring on or after January 1, 1989 and before January 1, 1990, the intermediary may adjust a hospital's target amount to take into account any distortion in operating costs between the hospital's base period and the period subject to the rate of increase ceiling due to the elimination of part A inpatient hospital benefit limitations under section 101 of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-360).

(2) *Request for adjustment.* A hospital must request an adjustment no later than 180 days after the close of the affected cost reporting period. A request for adjustment must include the following:

(i) A statement from the hospital specifying that the adjustment is to be based on its historical experience in—

- (A) Its base period; or
- (B) Its last cost reporting period ending before January 1, 1989. (If this period is less than 12 months in duration, multiple consecutive cost reporting periods comprising at least 12 months must be used.)

(ii) The hospital's cost report or reports for the period selected by the hospital under paragraph (i)(2)(i) of this section to serve as the basis for the adjustment.

(iii) Billing data for the cost reporting period selected under paragraph (i)(2)(i) of this section as the basis for the adjustment documenting the following:

(A) The number of hospital inpatient days furnished to Medicare beneficiaries for which no payment was made because the beneficiary had exhausted part A hospital benefits during an inpatient hospital stay. (Excluded from the count are days for stays that were not covered in their entirety because, prior to admission, the beneficiary had exhausted both part A hospital benefits and days in excess of the lifetime limitation on inpatient psychiatric hospital services.)

(B) The number of discharges applicable to Medicare beneficiaries for which no payment was made because the beneficiary had exhausted part A hospital benefits during the hospital stay but in a prior cost reporting period.

(C) The actual charges for ancillary services furnished on the days counted in paragraph (i)(2)(iii)(A) of this section. (A hospital that is unable to document its ancillary charges may substitute average cost per diem for actual charges for ancillary services.)

(3) *Amount of adjustment.* The adjustment is based on the estimated incremental costs of care historically furnished to Medicare beneficiaries after they had exhausted their benefits during an inpatient hospital stay. The adjustment is calculated as follows:

(i) *Step 1*—Determine the average cost per Medicare discharge by dividing the Medicare allowable inpatient operating costs for covered days of care in the base year or the last cost reporting period ending before January 1, 1989 by the number of Medicare discharges in that cost reporting period.

(ii) *Step 2*—Determine the estimated costs for ancillary services furnished to beneficiaries after exhaustion of part A hospital benefits. (If actual ancillary charges are available, ancillary costs are estimated by applying departmental cost-to-charge ratios from the cost report to the ancillary charges. If actual ancillary charges cannot be retrieved from the hospital's system, an ancillary per diem amount may be used in completing this step.)

(iii) *Step 3*—Determine the estimated routine costs of Medicare inpatient days furnished to beneficiaries after exhaustion of part A hospital benefits (days of care multiplied by the Medicare allowable inpatient operating cost per diem (obtained from the cost report). (No-charge-structure and all-inclusive-rate hospitals use total inpatient operating costs per diem (which equals the Medicare allowable inpatient operating costs in the cost reporting period divided by total Medicare inpatient days).)

(iv) *Step 4*—Determine the total inpatient operating costs for beneficiaries notwithstanding exhaustion of part A hospital benefits (by adding the Medicare allowable inpatient operating costs in the cost reporting period plus the sum of the numbers computed in paragraphs (i)(3)(ii) and (i)(3)(iii) of this section).

(v) *Step 5*—Determine the total number of Medicare discharges notwithstanding exhaustion of part A hospital benefits by adding the number of Medicare discharges for the cost reporting period and the number of discharges for beneficiaries who had exhausted part A hospital benefits in the prior cost reporting period and were discharged during the subsequent period.

(vi) *Step 6*—Determine the average cost per discharge notwithstanding exhaustion of part A hospital benefits by dividing the number computed in paragraph (i)(3)(iv) of this section by the number computed in paragraph (i)(3)(v) of this section.

(vii) *Step 7*—Determine the ratio of average cost per discharge notwithstanding exhaustion of part A hospital benefits to average cost per discharge (by dividing the number computed in paragraph (i)(3)(vi) of this section by the number computed in paragraph (i)(3)(iii) of this section).

(viii) *Step 8*—Determine the adjusted target rate applicable to the discharges in any cost reporting period or portion of a cost reporting period occurring on or after January 1, 1989 and before January 1, 1990 by multiplying the updated target rate applicable to the cost reporting period or portion of the cost reporting period occurring on or after January 1, 1989 by the number computed in paragraph (i)(3)(vii) of this section.

(ix) *Step 9*—Determine the appropriate target rate for portions of any cost reporting period occurring on and after January 1, 1990 by updating the hospitals' target rate prior to adjustment pursuant to paragraphs (i)(3)(i) through (i)(3)(viii).

(4) *Time period for determination and notification.* The intermediary notifies the hospital of the adjustment to the target rate for cost reporting periods or any portion of a cost reporting period occurring on or after January 1, 1989 and before January 1, 1990 no later than 90 days after receipt of all data needed to make the determination. An interim adjustment is made if the notice of amount of program reimbursement has not been issued for the period selected under paragraph (i)(2)(i) of this section. If an interim adjustment is made, the intermediary notifies the hospital of the final adjustment to the target rate no later than 30 days after the notice of amount of program reimbursement is issued for the period selected under paragraph (i)(2)(i) of this section.

(j) *Assignment of a new base period*—(1) *General rule.* (i) Effective with cost reporting periods beginning on or after April 1, 1990, HCFA may assign a new base period to establish a revised ceiling if the new base period is more representative of the reasonable and necessary cost of furnishing inpatient services and all the following conditions apply:

(A) The actual allowable inpatient costs of the hospital in the cost reporting period that would be affected by the revised ceiling exceed the target amount

established under paragraph (c) of this section.

(B) The hospital documents that the higher costs are the result of substantial and permanent changes in furnishing patient care services since the base period.

(C) The exceptions and adjustments described in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this section would not result in recognition of the reasonable and necessary costs of providing inpatient services.

(ii) The revised ceiling will be based on the necessary and proper costs incurred during the new base period. Increases in overhead costs (for example, administrative and general costs and housekeeping costs) will not be taken into consideration unless the hospital documents that these increases result from substantial and permanent changes in furnishing patient care services.

(2) *New base period.* The new base period is the first cost reporting period that is 12 months or longer that reflects the substantial and permanent change.

(3) *New applicable rate of increase percentages.* The revised ceiling resulting from the assignment of a new base period is increased by the applicable rate of increase percentages described in paragraph (c)(3) of this section.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 13.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance)

Dated: March 23, 1990.

Gail R. Wilensky,
Administrator, Health Care Financing
Administration.

Approved: April 11, 1990.

Louis W. Sullivan,
Secretary.

Editorial Note: The following addendum will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Addendum—Schedule of Standardized Amounts Effective With Discharges on or After April 1, 1990

I. Standardization and Restandardization of Base-year Costs or Target Amounts

Section 1886(d)(2)(A) of the Act required the establishment of base-year cost data containing allowable operating costs per discharge of inpatient hospital services for each hospital. The preamble to the interim final rule, published September 1, 1983 (48 FR 39763), contains a detailed explanation of how base-year cost data were established in the initial development of standardized amounts for the prospective payment system and how they are used in computing the Federal rates.

Section 1886(d)(9)(B)(i) of the Act required that Medicare target amounts be determined for each hospital located in Puerto Rico for its cost reporting period beginning in FY 1987. The September 1, 1987 final rule contains a detailed explanation of how the target amounts were determined and how they are used in computing the Puerto Rico rates (52 FR 33043, 33066).

The standardized amounts are based on per discharge averages of adjusted hospital costs, or for Puerto Rico, adjusted target amounts, from a base period, updated and otherwise adjusted in accordance with the provision of section 1886(d) of the Act. Sections 1886(d)(2)(C) and 1886(d)(9)(B)(ii) of the Act required that the updated base-year per discharge costs and, for Puerto Rico, the updated target amounts, respectively, be standardized in order to remove from the cost data the effects of certain sources of variation in cost among hospitals. These include case mix, differences in area wage levels, cost-of-living adjustments for Alaska and Hawaii, indirect medical education costs, and payments to hospitals serving a disproportionate share of low-income patients.

Since all adjustments for variation in hospital operating costs or target amounts except those for the disproportionate share hospitals have already been accounted for consistent with the construction of the standardized amounts, no revision was made at the hospital level for those factors. Therefore, the discussion below is limited to the impact of the disproportionate share payment provisions in section 6003(c) of Public Law 101-239 on the standardized amounts.

A. Costs for Hospitals That Serve a Disproportionate Share of Low-Income Patients

Before enactment of Public Law 101-239, sections 1886(d)(2)(C)(iv) and 1886(d)(9)(B)(ii)(IV) of the Act provided that, effective with discharges occurring on or after October 1, 1986, and before October 1, 1995, the updated hospital costs and target amounts per case be standardized for the estimated additional payments made to hospitals that serve disproportionate shares of low-income patients. That is, the law requires us to remove the effects of the payments made to disproportionate share hospitals from the costs used to establish the standardized amounts.

The original standardization for the disproportionate share adjustment was discussed in the *Federal Register* in the September 3, 1986 final rule (51 FR 31498). A subsequent restandardization

for the disproportionate share adjustment was discussed in the *Federal Register* in the September 30, 1988 final rule (53 FR 38536). Thus, we have consistently interpreted amendments to the disproportionate share hospital provisions to require us to restandardize the base year PPS amounts.

Section 6003(c) of Public Law 101-239 amended section 1886(d) of the Act to provide revised criteria used in classifying a hospital as a "disproportionate share" hospital as well as increases in the applicable payment adjustments effective with discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990. These changes, which were discussed earlier in this document, will result in higher adjustment factors than were taken into account in standardizing the costs used to establish the standardized amounts. In addition, more hospitals will receive disproportionate share payments under the revised qualifying criteria established by section 6003(c) of Public Law 101-239.

The legislative language in Public Law 101-239 is silent with respect to standardization for the increased payments associated with this provision, and makes no modification to the standardization requirement under sections 1886(d)(2)(C)(iv) and 1886(d)(9)(B)(ii)(IV) of the Act. Restandardization to remove the additional disproportionate share payments would reduce the standardized amounts by approximately 0.6 percent. However, it was Congress' intent in enacting section 6003(c) of Public Law 101-239 that the increased payments to disproportionate share hospitals be funded through additional program expenditures and not from a redistribution of payments to all hospitals. Therefore, in this unique case, the Secretary is using his general exceptions and adjustments authority under section 1886(d)(5)(I) of the Act to implement section 6003(c) without restandardization of the base year prospective payment system amounts. Therefore, no adjustment to the standardized amounts has been made to account for the disproportionate share changes.

B. Other Adjustments to the Average Standardized Amounts

As a result of the changes in the disproportionate share payment provisions and the wage index values applicable to redesignated rural hospitals, it was necessary to recalculate the budget neutrality factors that are required by section 1886(d)(8)(D) of the Act for certain rural

hospitals that are deemed urban under section 1886(d)(8)(B) of the Act. Section 1886(d)(8)(D) of the Act specifies that, in recalculating the budget neutrality factors, two payment conditions must be met. First, the FY 1990 standardized amounts are to be adjusted so as to ensure that total aggregate payments under the prospective payment system after implementation of the provisions of sections 1886(d)(8) (B) and (C) of the Act are equal to the aggregate prospective payments that would have been made absent these provisions. That is, the additional payments to those rural hospitals that have been deemed urban must be financed through a reduction in the urban standardized payment amounts. Second, the rural standardized amounts are to be adjusted so that aggregate payments to those rural hospitals that have not been deemed urban are not changed as a result of these provisions.

The following are the budget neutrality factors that were used to establish the standardized amounts effective for discharges occurring on or after January 1, 1990:

Urban: .999516

Rural: .999244

The budget neutrality factors for the standardized amounts effective for discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990 are as follows:

Urban: .999133

Rural: .999147

Section 1886(b)(5)(A) of the Act requires that, in addition to the basic

prospective payment rates, payments must be made for discharges involving day outliers and may be made for discharges involving cost outliers. Section 1886(d)(3)(B) of the Act correspondingly requires that the urban and rural standardized amounts, respectively, be separately reduced by the proportion or estimated total DRG payments attributable to outlier payments for hospitals located in urban areas and those located in rural areas.

Section 1886(d)(5)(A) of the Act requires that, in addition to the basic prospective payment rates, payments must be made for discharges involving day outliers and may be made for discharges involving cost outliers. Section 1886(d)(3)(B) of the Act correspondingly requires that the urban and rural standardized amounts, respectively, be separately reduced by the proportion of estimated total DRG payments attributable to outlier payments for hospitals located in urban areas and those located in rural areas. Because of the revised payment rules set forth in this document, the outlier adjustment factor for urban hospitals must be revised. The outlier adjustment factor applied to the urban standardized amounts in the December 29, 1989 notice effective for discharges occurring on or after January 1, 1990 was .943622. The outlier adjustment factor applied to the urban standardized amounts to establish the payment rates effective for discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990 is .943759. The outlier adjustment

factor applied to the rural standardized amounts remains at .978500. There is no change in the outlier thresholds. The revised standardized amounts effective for discharges occurring on or after April 1, 1990 are shown in Tables 1a, 1b, and 1c.

II. Tables

This section contains the tables referred to throughout the preamble to this final rule and in this addendum. The tables are as follows:

- Table 1a—National Adjusted Standardized Amounts, Labor/Nonlabor
- Table 1b—Regional Adjusted Standardized Amounts, Labor/Nonlabor
- Table 1c—Adjusted Standardize Amounts for Puerto Rico, Labor/Nonlabor
- Table 2a—Wage Index for Rural Counties Whose Hospitals Are Deemed Urban—Using Urban Area Wage Index
- Table 2b—Wage Index for Rural Counties Whose Hospitals Are Deemed Urban—Computed as Separate Urban Areas
- Table 2c—Wage Index for Rural Counties Whose Hospitals Are Deemed Urban—Using Statewide Rural Wage Index
- Table 3d—Hospital Case Mix Indexes for Cost Reporting Periods Beginning in FY 1987

TABLE 1A—NATIONAL ADJUSTED STANDARDIZED AMOUNTS, LABOR/NONLABOR

Large urban		Other urban		Rural	
Labor-related	Nonlabor-related	Labor-related	Nonlabor-related	Labor-related	Nonlabor-related
2507.57	888.18	2467.88	874.11	2433.05	673.86

TABLE 1B—REGIONAL ADJUSTED STANDARDIZED AMOUNTS, LABOR/NONLABOR

	Large urban		Other urban		Rural	
	Labor-related	Nonlabor-related	Labor-related	Nonlabor-related	Labor-related	Nonlabor-related
1. New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT).....	2633.24	927.12	2591.55	912.44	2696.96	799.40
2. Middle Atlantic (PA, NJ, NY).....	2365.74	879.79	2328.28	865.86	2582.89	755.72
3. South Atlantic (DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV).....	2525.31	810.62	2485.32	797.78	2469.05	655.31
4. East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI).....	2663.61	959.08	2621.44	943.90	2500.26	728.33
5. East South Central (AL, KY, MS, TN).....	2423.64	733.99	2385.26	722.37	2447.07	611.08
6. West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NB, ND, SD).....	2526.01	873.90	2486.02	860.06	2376.46	652.65
7. West South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX).....	2511.46	805.12	2471.70	792.37	2281.04	600.39
8. Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY).....	2421.90	863.14	2383.55	849.48	2319.01	695.06
9. Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).....	2356.62	965.11	2319.31	969.50	2243.50	777.93

TABLE 1c—ADJUSTED STANDARDIZED AMOUNTS FOR PUERTO RICO, LABOR/NONLABOR

	Large urban		Other urban		Rural	
	Labor-related	Non-labor-related	Labor-related	Non-labor-related	Labor-related	Non-labor-related
Puerto Rico.....	2,227.36	398.48	2,192.12	392.16	1,626.27	301.04
National.....	2,474.28	828.84				

TABLE 2a—FOR RURAL COUNTIES WHOSE HOSPITALS ARE DEEMED URBAN—USING URBAN AREA WAGE INDEX

County	Urban area	Wage index
Macoupin, IL.....	St. Louis, MO-IL.....	1.0126
Mason, IL.....	Peoria, IL.....	0.9794
Clinton, IN.....	Lafayette, IN.....	0.8843
Allegan, MI.....	Grand Rapids, MI.....	1.0076
Ionia, MI.....	Lansing-East Lansing, MI.....	1.0360
Shiawassee, MI.....	Flint, MI.....	1.1853
Tuscola, MI.....	Saginaw-Bay City-Midland, MI.....	1.0769
Clinton, MO.....	Kansas City, KS-MO.....	1.0093
Van Wert, OH.....	Lima, OH.....	0.9178
Cherokee, SC.....	Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.....	0.9322
Bedford, VA.....	Roanoke, VA.....	0.8224
Fredericksburg City, VA.....	Washington, DC-MD-VA.....	1.0827
Jefferson, WI.....	Milwaukee, WI.....	1.0132
Walworth, WI.....	Milwaukee, WI.....	1.0132

TABLE 2a—FOR RURAL COUNTIES WHOSE HOSPITALS ARE DEEMED URBAN—USING URBAN AREA WAGE INDEX—Continued

County	Urban area	Wage index
Jefferson, WV.....	Washington, DC-MD-VA.....	1.0827

TABLE 2b—WAGE INDEX FOR RURAL COUNTIES WHOSE HOSPITALS ARE DEEMED URBAN—COMPUTED AS SEPARATE URBAN AREAS

County	Urban area	Wage index
Limestone, AL.....	Huntsville, AL.....	0.7455
Marshall, AL.....	Huntsville, AL.....	0.7207
Charlotte, FL.....	Sarasota, FL.....	0.8311
Indian River, FL.....	Fort Pierce, FL.....	0.8613
Lenawee, MI.....	Ann Arbor, MI.....	1.1580
Henry, IN.....	Anderson, IN.....	0.8411
Columbiana, OH.....	Beaver County, PA.....	0.9089

TABLE 2c—WAGE INDEX FOR RURAL COUNTIES WHOSE HOSPITALS ARE DEEMED URBAN—USING STATEWIDE RURAL WAGE INDEX

County	Urban area	Wage index
Christian, IL.....	Springfield, IL.....	0.7994
Jefferson, KS.....	Topeka, KS.....	0.7908
Barry, MI.....	Battle Creek, MI.....	0.9110
Cass, MI.....	Benton Harbor, MI.....	0.9110
Van Buren, MI.....	Kalamazoo, MI.....	0.9110
Harnett, NC.....	Fayetteville, NC.....	0.7639
Genesee, NY.....	Rochester, NY.....	0.8069
Morrow, OH.....	Mansfield, OH.....	0.8568
Lawrence, PA.....	Beaver County, PA.....	0.8760

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TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX
010001 01.2303	010059 00.9728	010122 00.9859	030012 01.1173	030091 00.8891	040001 01.0745	040002 01.0376
010004 00.9804	010060 00.9780	010123 01.2290	030013 01.1313	040001 01.0745	040002 01.0376	040003 00.9815
010005 01.1483	010061 00.9705	010124 01.2337	030014 01.3012	040002 01.0376	040003 00.9815	040004 01.2781
010006 01.1902	010062 00.9521	010125 00.9995	030015 01.1248	040003 00.9815	040004 01.2781	040005 01.0513
010007 00.9555	010063 01.4703	010126 01.0113	030016 01.2760	040004 01.2781	040005 01.0513	040006 01.0050
010008 00.9880	010064 01.0600	010127 01.3143	030017 01.3697	040005 01.0513	040006 01.0050	040007 01.4125
010009 01.1159	010065 00.8766	010128 00.9728	030018 01.1441	040007 01.4125	040008 01.0603	040009 00.9670
010010 00.9888	010066 00.9141	010129 01.0580	030019 01.3221	040008 01.0603	040010 01.1450	040011 00.9131
010011 01.3136	010067 01.1427	010130 01.0711	030020 01.2805	040011 00.9131	040012 01.1532	040013 01.0284
010012 01.2834	010068 01.0807	010131 01.2697	030021 01.2805	040012 01.1532	040014 01.1700	040015 01.3322
010013 01.1685	010069 01.1015	010132 00.9524	030022 01.2805	040013 01.0284	040016 01.1625	040017 01.1341
010014 01.1967	010070 00.9370	010133 00.9251	030023 01.2200	040014 01.1341	040018 01.2155	040019 01.3809
010015 00.9431	010071 00.9355	010134 00.9251	030024 01.4378	040015 01.1700	040020 01.9835	040021 00.9635
010016 01.1208	010072 01.0463	010135 00.9590	030025 01.1606	040016 01.3322	040022 01.4739	040023 00.9396
010017 00.9880	010073 00.9370	010136 00.9590	030026 01.1606	040017 01.1341	040024 00.9635	040025 00.9396
010018 00.9431	010074 00.9355	010137 01.0215	030027 01.0507	040018 01.2155	040026 01.2716	040027 01.1752
010019 01.1208	010075 01.0463	010138 00.9859	030028 01.0507	040019 01.3809	040028 01.0765	040029 01.0829
010020 00.9880	010076 01.2155	010139 00.9811	030029 01.1499	040020 01.9835	040030 00.9355	040031 00.9786
010021 01.0576	010077 01.0404	010140 01.0004	030030 01.2513	040021 00.9835	040032 00.9913	040033 00.8291
010022 00.9833	010078 01.2155	010141 01.0004	030031 01.2513	040022 01.4739	040033 00.8291	040034 00.9430
010023 01.2091	010079 00.9825	010142 00.9811	030032 01.1499	040023 00.9396	040035 00.9430	040036 01.1709
010024 01.2683	010080 00.9825	010143 01.0883	030033 01.2513	040024 00.9635	040036 01.1709	040037 01.0494
010025 01.1879	010081 01.5230	010144 01.1554	030034 01.1397	040025 00.9396	040037 01.0494	040038 00.9627
010026 00.9560	010082 01.0427	010145 01.1882	030035 01.1499	040026 01.2716	040039 00.9627	040040 00.9542
010027 01.0802	010083 01.0427	010146 01.0004	030036 01.1471	040027 01.1752	040040 00.9542	040041 01.1634
010028 01.0019	010084 01.3104	010147 01.0215	030037 01.4318	040028 01.0765	040041 01.1634	040042 01.2096
010029 01.2071	010085 01.2715	010148 01.0684	030038 01.4318	040029 01.0829	040042 01.2096	040043 00.9501
010030 00.9384	010086 01.0295	010149 01.3243	030039 01.0507	040030 00.9355	040043 00.9501	040044 00.9349
010031 01.2162	010087 01.2701	010150 01.0222	030040 01.0377	040031 00.9786	040044 00.9349	040045 00.8433
010032 00.9144	010088 01.0315	010151 01.1775	030041 00.9448	040032 00.9913	040045 00.8433	040046 01.0036
010033 01.7402	010089 01.0315	010152 01.1775	030042 01.0507	040033 00.8291	040046 01.0036	040047 01.0036
010034 00.9878	010090 01.3211	010153 01.0592	030043 01.0507	040034 00.9430	040047 01.0036	040048 01.1016
010035 01.0620	010091 01.0421	010154 01.0592	030044 01.0837	040035 00.9430	040048 01.1016	040049 01.0417
010036 01.0634	010092 01.2911	010155 01.0592	030045 00.9806	040036 01.1709	040049 01.0417	040050 00.9092
010037 01.0752	010093 01.1590	010156 01.0592	030046 00.9806	040037 01.0494	040050 00.9092	040051 00.9092
010038 01.5440	010094 01.1590	010157 01.0592	030047 01.0377	040038 00.9786	040051 00.9092	040052 01.0082
010039 01.1549	010095 01.0129	010158 01.0592	030048 01.0377	040039 00.9627	040052 01.0082	040053 01.0835
010040 01.8123	010096 00.9109	010159 01.0592	030049 01.0377	040040 00.9542	040053 01.0835	040054 01.0835
010041 00.9736	010097 01.0149	010160 01.0592	030050 01.0377	040041 01.1634	040054 01.0835	040055 01.2635
010042 00.9272	010098 01.0921	010161 01.0592	030051 01.1402	040042 01.2096	040055 01.2635	040056 01.2635
010043 00.9736	010099 01.0141	010162 01.0592	030052 01.1402	040043 00.9501	040056 01.2635	040057 01.2635
010044 00.9272	010100 01.1863	010163 01.0592	030053 01.1855	040044 00.9349	040057 01.2635	040058 00.9258
010045 01.0055	010101 01.0750	010164 01.0592	030054 01.1855	040045 00.8433	040058 00.9258	
010046 01.2041	010102 00.9074	010165 01.0592	030055 01.1855	040046 01.0036		
010047 00.9784	010103 01.4942	010166 01.0592	030056 01.1855	040047 01.0036		
010048 01.0568	010104 01.5097	010167 01.0592	030057 01.1855	040048 01.1016		
010049 00.9876	010105 01.1128	010168 01.0592	030058 01.1855	040049 01.0417		
010050 00.9876	010106 00.9166	010169 01.0592	030059 01.1855	040050 00.9092		
010051 00.8947	010107 01.0374	010170 01.0592	030060 01.1855	040051 00.9092		
010052 01.0084	010108 01.3614	010171 01.0592	030061 01.1855	040052 01.0082		
010053 01.0077	010109 01.2269	010172 01.0592	030062 01.1855	040053 01.0082		
010054 01.1362	010110 00.9933	010173 01.0592	030063 01.1855	040054 01.0835		
010055 01.2562	010111 00.9478	010174 01.0592	030064 01.1855	040055 01.0835		
010056 01.1895	010112 01.1535	010175 01.0592	030065 01.1855	040056 01.0835		
010057 01.1121	010113 01.1528	010176 01.0592	030066 01.1855	040057 01.0835		
010058 01.0329	010114 00.9522	010177 01.0592	030067 01.1855	040058 01.0835		
	010115 01.0880	010178 01.0592	030068 01.1855	040059 01.0835		
	010116 01.0880	010179 01.0592	030069 01.1855	040060 01.0835		
	010117 01.0880	010180 01.0592	030070 01.1855	040061 01.0835		
	010118 01.0880	010181 01.0592	030071 01.1855	040062 01.0835		
	010119 01.0880	010182 01.0592	030072 01.1855	040063 01.0835		
	010120 01.0880	010183 01.0592	030073 01.1855	040064 01.0835		
	010121 01.0880	010184 01.0592	030074 01.1855	040065 01.0835		
	010122 01.0880	010185 01.0592	030075 01.1855	040066 01.0835		
		010186 01.0592	030076 01.1855	040067 01.0835		
		010187 01.0592	030077 01.1855	040068 01.0835		
		010188 01.0592	030078 01.1855	040069 01.0835		
		010189 01.0592	030079 01.1855	040070 01.0835		
		010190 01.0592	030080 01.1855	040071 01.0835		
		010191 01.0592	030081 01.1855	040072 01.0835		
		010192 01.0592	030082 01.1855	040073 01.0835		
		010193 01.0592	030083 01.1855	040074 01.0835		
		010194 01.0592	030084 01.1855	040075 01.0835		
		010195 01.0592	030085 01.1855	040076 01.0835		
		010196 01.0592	030086 01.1855	040077 01.0835		
		010197 01.0592	030087 01.1855	040078 01.0835		
		010198 01.0592	030088 01.1855	040079 01.0835		
		010199 01.0592	030089 01.1855	040080 01.0835		
		010200 01.0592	030090 01.1855	040081 01.0835		
		010201 01.0592	030091 01.1855	040082 01.0835		
		010202 01.0592	030092 01.1855	040083 01.0835		
		010203 01.0592	030093 01.1855	040084 01.0835		
		010204 01.0592	030094 01.1855	040085 01.0835		
		010205 01.0592	030095 01.1855	040086 01.0835		
		010206 01.0592	030096 01.1855	040087 01.0835		
		010207 01.0592	030097 01.1855	040088 01.0835		
		010208 01.0592	030098 01.1855	040089 01.0835		
		010209 01.0592	030099 01.1855	040090 01.0835		
		010210 01.0592	030100 01.1855	040091 01.0835		
		010211 01.0592	030101 01.1855	040092 01.0835		
		010212 01.0592	030102 01.1855	040093 01.0835		
		010213 01.0592	030103 01.1855	040094 01.0835		
		010214 01.0592	030104 01.1855	040095 01.0835		
		010215 01.0592	030105 01.1855	040096 01.0835		
		010216 01.0592	030106 01.1855	040097 01.0835		
		010217 01.0592	030107 01.1855	040098 01.0835		
		010218 01.0592	030108 01.1855	040099 01.0835		
		010219 01.0592	030109 01.1855	040100 01.0835		
		010220 01.0592	030110 01.1855	040101 01.0835		
		010221 01.0592	030111 01.1855	040102 01.0835		
		010222 01.0592	030112 01.1855	040103 01.0835		
		010223 01.0592	030113 01.1855	040104 01.0835		
		010224 01.0592	030114 01.1855	040105 01.0835		
		010225 01.0592	030115 01.1855	040106 01.0835		
		010226 01.0592	030116 01.1855	040107 01.0835		
		010227 01.0592	030117 01.1855	040108 01.0835		
		010228 01.0592	030118 01.1855	040109 01.0835		
		010229 01.0592	030119 01.1855	040110 01.0835		
		010230 01.0592	030120 01.1855	040111 01.0835		
		010231 01.0592	030121 01.1855	040112 01.0835		
		010232 01.0592	030122 01.1855	040113 01.0835		
		010233 01.0592	030123 01.1855	040114 01.0835		
		010234 01.0592	030124 01.1855	040115 01.0835		
		010235 01.0592	030125 01.1855	040116 0		

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX
040080	01.0163	050011	01.1673	050074	00.9600	050133	01.1756	050197	01.7187
040082	01.1563	050013	01.9811	050075	01.2224	050134	01.2552	050199	01.2038
040083	01.2898	050014	01.1132	050076	01.4461	050135	01.4892	050201	01.0241
040084	00.9858	050015	01.2735	050077	01.4275	050136	01.2275	050202	01.1739
040085	00.9559	050016	01.1241	050078	01.1903	050137	01.1655	050204	01.4023
040086	01.0313	050017	01.6257	050079	01.3338	050138	01.4055	050205	01.1207
040089	01.0259	050018	01.1795	050080	01.1350	050139	01.2175	050207	01.1929
040070	00.9564	050019	00.9577	050081	01.5174	050140	01.2074	050208	01.1757
040071	01.2071	050021	01.2268	050082	01.3053	050141	01.2111	050211	01.2740
040072	01.0278	050022	01.3428	050084	01.3818	050143	01.2164	050212	01.0717
040074	01.0931	050024	01.1669	050085	01.1688	050144	01.3063	050213	01.2331
040075	01.1316	050025	01.4895	050087	01.2994	050145	01.2382	050214	01.3504
040076	00.9417	050026	01.4886	050088	01.0669	050146	01.2326	050215	01.3200
040077	00.9220	050028	01.2325	050089	01.2746	050147	00.9713	050217	01.1495
040078	01.2105	050029	01.2454	050090	01.2524	050148	01.1263	050219	01.3946
040080	01.0070	050030	01.1584	050091	01.1411	050149	01.1549	050220	01.1526
040081	00.8798	050032	01.1422	050092	01.0904	050150	01.2194	050221	01.3692
040082	01.1146	050033	01.3103	050093	01.4597	050151	01.2441	050222	01.2007
040084	01.0380	050034	01.1922	050096	01.1596	050152	01.2968	050224	01.3825
040085	01.0353	050036	01.4272	050097	01.2711	050153	01.5227	050225	01.1841
040087	00.9734	050038	01.2448	050098	00.9771	050154	01.2297	050226	01.4205
040088	01.1097	050039	01.4653	050099	01.3463	050155	01.1628	050228	01.2552
040090	00.9236	050040	01.1257	050100	01.6869	050159	01.1951	050229	01.2479
040091	01.1029	050041	01.1488	050101	01.2559	050161	01.3398	050230	01.2442
040093	01.0071	050042	01.2037	050102	01.2742	050164	01.3376	050231	01.3867
040095	00.9284	050043	01.5298	050103	01.3903	050166	01.2234	050232	01.6133
040098	01.1442	050045	01.1461	050104	01.3137	050167	01.2914	050233	01.1458
040100	01.0659	050046	01.2087	050107	01.2487	050168	01.4548	050234	01.1818
040105	01.0046	050047	01.5321	050108	01.3207	050169	01.3660	050235	01.3162
040106	01.0402	050049	01.2544	050109	01.6870	050170	01.3642	050236	01.2111
040107	01.0593	050051	01.1397	050110	01.1018	050172	01.1806	050238	01.2311
040108	00.9089	050052	01.1311	050111	01.2166	050173	01.3701	050239	01.2896
040109	01.1994	050053	01.2275	050112	01.3171	050174	01.4917	050240	01.2935
040114	01.6259	050054	01.1915	050113	01.1782	050175	01.2216	050241	01.1726
040115	01.0099	050055	01.1732	050114	01.3706	050177	01.3134	050242	01.3192
040116	01.2129	050056	01.2043	050115	01.3702	050179	01.1820	050243	01.2612
040118	01.0561	050057	01.2634	050116	01.3744	050180	01.3497	050245	01.5119
040119	01.1365	050058	01.2937	050117	01.1897	050181	01.2812	050248	01.1282
040122	01.0235	050060	01.3303	050118	01.1655	050183	01.2017	050251	01.0442
040123	00.9088	050061	01.2054	050119	00.8513	050186	01.3342	050253	01.2018
040124	00.9968	050063	01.3387	050121	01.1095	050187	01.0120	050254	01.1496
040126	00.9544	050065	01.3251	050122	01.4064	050188	01.3395	050256	01.5480
040128	00.8931	050066	01.1875	050124	01.2625	050189	00.9871	050257	01.3812
040130	01.0329	050067	01.1975	050125	01.1733	050190	01.1292	050258	01.3379
050002	01.1814	050068	01.1105	050126	01.2690	050191	01.3721	050260	00.9152
050004	01.1625	050069	01.4305	050127	01.2521	050192	01.0290	050261	01.1385
050006	01.2505	050070	01.1619	050128	01.4059	050193	01.3248	050262	01.5063
050007	01.3759	050071	01.1589	050129	01.5073	050194	01.2460	050263	01.2427
050008	01.3086	050072	01.2380	050131	01.1911	050195	01.2863	050264	01.3235
050009	01.3812	050073	01.1614	050132	01.2108	050196	01.1507	050267	01.4286

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

PERIODS BEGINNING IN FY1987

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

[illegible]

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX
050660 00.9051	060038 01.1324	070005 01.3086	100002 01.2902	100056 01.1014	
050661 01.0188	060039 01.0956	070006 01.1879	100004 01.1065	100057 01.2080	
050662 00.7996	060041 00.9220	070007 01.2315	100005 01.0523	100059 01.4736	
050663 01.1083	060042 00.9792	070008 01.1554	100006 01.3937	100060 01.4297	
050666 00.9511	060043 01.0489	070009 01.1745	100007 01.6641	100061 01.3040	
050667 01.1880	060044 01.1931	070010 01.4008	100008 01.3887	100062 01.2058	
050668 01.2804	060045 01.0161	070011 01.2679	100009 01.3550	100063 01.1993	
050669 00.8036	060046 01.0878	070012 01.1571	100010 01.2392	100065 01.1064	
050671 00.9507	060047 01.1740	070013 01.1884	100011 00.9923	100067 01.3165	
050672 00.6649	060049 01.1022	070014 01.1782	100012 01.2607	100068 01.1631	
050674 01.2236	060050 01.2085	070015 01.1983	100013 00.9392	100069 01.2344	
050675 01.2198	060051 01.2924	070016 01.2355	100014 01.1584	100070 01.3140	
050676 00.9623	060052 00.8945	070017 01.2683	100015 01.2542	100071 01.2646	
050677 01.2153	060053 00.8779	070018 01.2024	100016 01.0397	100072 01.1639	
050678 01.1723	060054 01.2284	070019 01.1743	100017 01.2621	100073 01.5656	
050679 01.1212	060056 00.9593	070020 01.2555	100018 01.2586	100074 01.1481	
060001 01.4113	060057 01.2828	070021 01.2112	100019 01.2660	100075 01.5470	
060003 01.1920	060058 00.9625	070022 01.5722	100020 01.2132	100076 01.1224	
060004 01.0702	060060 01.1077	070023 01.1991	100021 01.2112	100077 01.2298	
060005 01.4955	060062 00.9996	070024 01.1979	100022 01.4082	100078 01.0838	
060006 01.2115	060063 01.0829	070025 01.5119	100023 01.1866	100079 01.2043	
060007 01.1742	060064 01.2450	070026 01.1350	100024 01.1828	100080 01.2355	
060008 01.1945	060065 01.2229	070027 01.2386	100025 01.4299	100081 01.0334	
060009 01.2266	060066 01.0598	070028 01.3376	100026 01.3468	100082 01.2815	
060010 01.4881	060067 00.9947	070029 01.2103	100027 00.9987	100083 01.1208	
060011 01.2049	060068 01.2037	070030 01.1439	100028 01.1528	100084 01.3139	
060012 01.3790	060070 01.1662	070031 01.2634	100029 01.2452	100085 01.1766	
060013 01.2452	060071 01.2618	070033 01.1911	100030 01.0680	100086 01.2272	
060014 01.4873	060072 00.9541	070034 01.2294	100032 01.2914	100087 01.5396	
060015 01.3366	060073 00.9038	070035 01.2924	100033 01.3007	100088 01.3083	
060016 01.2218	060074 01.0998	070036 01.2718	100034 01.3630	100089 01.1677	
060017 01.2335	060075 01.1552	080001 01.3971	100035 01.2069	100090 01.1305	
060018 01.1574	060076 01.2487	080002 01.1551	100036 01.2456	100092 01.1492	
060019 01.2302	060077 00.9978	080003 01.2382	100038 01.4269	100093 01.2637	
060020 01.3392	060083 00.9694	080004 01.2357	100039 01.3381	100098 00.8940	
060022 01.5079	060085 00.9096	080005 01.1121	100040 01.3606	100099 01.1802	
060023 01.3198	060087 01.2401	080006 01.1324	100042 01.1514	100100 01.1808	
060024 01.4020	060088 01.0908	080007 01.1781	100043 01.2506	100102 01.0276	
060026 01.3689	060090 01.0085	090001 01.3532	100044 01.2312	100103 00.9594	
060027 01.2459	060092 00.9595	090002 01.1139	100045 01.2419	100105 01.1795	
060028 01.3601	060093 01.0792	090003 01.3762	100046 01.1694	100106 01.0923	
060029 00.9697	060096 01.1732	090004 01.4421	100047 01.1811	100107 01.1429	
060030 01.2074	060097 01.0195	090005 01.2457	100048 00.9719	100108 01.0115	
060031 01.3787	060098 01.1919	090006 01.2166	100049 01.1628	100109 01.1721	
060032 01.3431	060099 00.8867	090007 01.0917	100050 01.0991	100110 01.3585	
060033 01.2087	060101 01.7209	090008 01.1657	100051 01.0810	100112 00.9422	
060034 01.2245	070001 01.6643	090009 01.2080	100052 01.2662	100113 01.6225	
060035 01.1540	070002 01.5316	090010 01.0311	100053 01.1505	100114 01.2458	
060036 01.1418	070003 01.2228	090011 01.5708	100054 01.3158	100115 01.1403	
060037 00.9882	070004 01.1497	100001 01.2676	100055 01.1837	100117 01.1953	

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

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TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX
140167 01.0702	140232 00.9934	150012 01.3614	150067 01.0081	150129 01.1703	
140168 01.0554	140233 01.4465	150013 01.0483	150069 01.1423	150130 01.1551	
140170 01.0092	140234 01.2042	150014 01.2242	150070 01.0392	150132 01.3112	
140171 00.9598	140235 00.9868	150015 01.1254	150071 01.1487	150133 01.1691	
140172 01.3782	140236 00.9697	150017 01.4774	150072 01.0581	150134 01.2970	
140173 00.8693	140239 01.3720	150018 01.1586	150073 01.0681	150136 01.0901	
140174 01.2550	140240 01.1729	150019 01.2083	150074 01.3812	160001 01.1484	
140175 01.1212	140241 00.8966	150020 01.0488	150075 01.1684	160002 01.3172	
140177 01.1295	140242 01.2914	150021 01.3946	150076 01.0087	160003 01.0248	
140179 01.2378	140243 01.1016	150022 01.0696	150077 01.1274	160004 01.1475	
140180 01.2826	140245 01.0055	150023 01.2635	150078 01.0436	160005 01.1556	
140181 01.1426	140246 01.0563	150024 01.1237	150079 01.0457	160007 01.1055	
140182 01.2568	140247 00.9911	150025 01.3614	150081 01.0184	160008 01.1519	
140184 01.1014	140248 01.1118	150026 01.1812	150082 01.3254	160009 01.1063	
140185 01.1861	140249 00.8427	150027 01.0504	150083 00.7980	160012 01.0730	
140186 01.1058	140250 01.2152	150029 01.1537	150084 01.5492	160013 01.2090	
140187 01.3028	140251 01.2348	150030 01.1319	150085 00.9362	160014 01.0236	
140188 01.0060	140252 01.2092	150031 01.0050	150086 01.1204	160016 01.2157	
140189 01.1215	140253 01.1574	150032 01.6010	150088 01.1491	160018 00.9835	
140190 01.0197	140258 01.2640	150033 01.3729	150089 01.1780	160020 01.0597	
140191 01.1593	140261 01.1360	150034 01.0951	150090 01.2816	160021 01.0152	
140193 00.9731	140271 00.9998	150035 01.1535	150091 01.0715	160023 01.1150	
140197 01.2627	140273 01.0922	150036 01.0408	150092 01.0785	160024 01.1701	
140199 01.0755	140275 01.0938	150037 01.1741	150094 00.9770	160025 01.5256	
140200 01.3528	140276 01.8067	150038 01.1323	150095 01.0639	160028 01.1347	
140202 01.1783	140280 01.1405	150039 01.0176	150096 01.0142	160027 01.1097	
140203 01.0743	140281 01.3876	150042 01.1548	150097 01.0558	160028 01.1239	
140204 01.2221	140285 01.0858	150043 01.1076	150098 01.0551	160029 01.2414	
140205 01.0373	140286 01.1591	150044 01.1524	150099 01.2293	160030 01.2464	
140206 01.0755	140288 01.4058	150045 01.1345	150100 01.4091	160031 01.0639	
140207 01.2015	140289 01.2448	150046 01.2989	150101 01.0211	160032 01.0459	
140208 01.3273	140290 01.2333	150047 01.3292	150102 01.0526	160033 01.2436	
140209 01.2780	140291 01.1928	150048 01.1600	150103 00.9834	160034 01.0014	
140210 00.9988	140292 01.1455	150049 01.0131	150104 01.0924	160035 01.0147	
140211 01.1241	140293 00.9685	150050 01.1539	150105 01.0921	160036 01.1877	
140212 01.0647	140294 01.0653	150051 01.1968	150106 01.0035	160037 01.0602	
140213 01.1608	140295 01.2165	150052 01.0271	150109 01.2255	160038 01.2063	
140215 01.1360	140297 01.3156	150053 00.9704	150110 00.9156	160039 01.0041	
140216 00.9240	140299 01.0352	150054 01.0411	150111 01.0840	160040 01.2148	
140217 01.2721	150001 01.1238	150056 01.4916	150112 01.1433	160041 01.0671	
140218 01.0377	150002 01.1427	150057 02.0467	150113 01.0887	160043 00.9978	
140219 01.1854	150003 01.3345	150058 01.4064	150114 01.0323	160044 01.2385	
140220 01.0952	150004 01.2032	150059 01.0815	150115 01.1933	160045 01.4446	
140223 01.3536	150005 01.1351	150060 01.0884	150122 01.0919	160046 01.0303	
140224 01.2973	150006 01.1942	150061 01.1111	150123 00.9755	160047 01.2345	
140226 00.9572	150007 01.1007	150062 01.0008	150124 01.1354	160048 01.0734	
140228 01.4979	150008 01.1921	150063 01.0996	150125 01.2708	160049 00.9223	
140229 01.0715	150009 01.1917	150064 01.0582	150126 01.6186	160050 01.0389	
140230 00.9651	150010 01.0655	150065 01.1423	150127 01.0862	160051 01.1232	
140231 01.2551	150011 01.2057	150066 01.0743	150128 01.1195	160052 01.0874	

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

[illegible]

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[illegible]

NOTE

PERIODS BEGINNING IN FY1987

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX
230087 01.0791	230149 01.0920	230223 01.2086	240026 01.3128	240087 01.1497	240103 01.0506
230089 01.2140	230150 01.4965	230224 01.0714	240027 01.0548	240088 01.3980	240104 01.0508
230090 01.4388	230151 01.2997	230225 01.1401	240028 01.1127	240089 00.9942	240105 00.9891
230092 01.2571	230153 01.1762	230227 01.1802	240029 01.0869	240090 01.0581	240106 01.0629
230093 01.1210	230154 01.1120	230228 01.1702	240030 01.3095	240091 01.0452	240107 01.0190
230095 01.0993	230155 01.0095	230230 01.2863	240031 00.9538	240092 01.0671	240108 01.0047
230096 01.0877	230156 01.5042	230231 00.9732	240032 00.9678	240093 01.2624	240109 01.0052
230097 01.2317	230157 01.2483	230232 01.0739	240033 01.2723	240094 01.0524	240110 01.0776
230098 01.1478	230158 00.9482	230233 00.9736	240034 01.0255	240095 01.0542	240111 01.0248
230099 01.1145	230159 01.1940	230234 01.1500	240035 01.3651	240096 01.0071	240112 01.0743
230100 01.1149	230160 00.8807	230235 01.0733	240036 01.1014	240097 01.1460	240113 01.0657
230101 01.0848	230161 00.9848	230236 01.0733	240037 01.1650	240098 01.0571	240114 01.0047
230102 01.2025	230162 00.9111	230237 01.1718	240038 01.1785	240099 01.0524	240115 01.2480
230103 01.0711	230163 01.5596	230238 01.0813	240039 01.0781	240100 01.0744	240116 00.8559
230104 01.3573	230164 01.1837	230239 01.1780	240040 01.2669	240101 00.9428	240117 01.1252
230105 01.3748	230165 01.1659	230240 01.0881	240041 01.1137	240102 01.1933	240118 00.9854
230106 01.0901	230166 01.1674	230241 01.0820	240042 00.9542	240103 01.0506	240119 00.8005
230107 00.8818	230167 01.1207	230242 01.3228	240043 01.1960	240104 01.1933	240120 00.9589
230108 01.1303	230168 01.1468	230243 01.0565	240044 01.1884	240105 00.9891	240121 00.9589
230109 01.1912	230169 01.1711	230244 01.1158	240045 01.5934	240106 01.0629	240122 01.0973
230110 00.9732	230170 00.9071	230245 01.1505	240046 00.9848	240107 01.0190	240123 01.0657
230111 00.9482	230171 01.1337	230246 01.1808	240047 00.9848	240108 01.0047	240124 01.0458
230112 00.8872	230172 01.0894	230247 01.1505	240048 01.4090	240109 01.0052	240125 01.0589
230113 00.9558	230173 00.9313	230248 01.1908	240049 01.1555	240110 01.0776	240126 01.0307
230114 00.8107	230174 01.0786	230249 01.0897	240050 01.1555	240111 01.0248	240127 01.0572
230115 01.7438	230175 01.1212	230250 01.3606	240051 01.4090	240112 01.0743	240128 01.0572
230116 01.1982	230176 01.0668	230251 01.5005	240052 01.1555	240113 01.0657	240129 00.9366
230117 01.0291	230177 00.9580	230252 01.1525	240053 01.3179	240114 01.0047	240130 01.0429
230118 01.0564	230178 01.0402	230253 01.3368	240054 01.1884	240115 01.2480	240131 01.2833
230119 01.1596	230179 00.9033	230254 00.9428	240055 01.2423	240116 00.8559	240132 01.2384
230120 01.0564	230180 01.1751	230255 01.1794	240056 01.0612	240117 01.1252	240133 01.1181
230121 01.1596	230181 01.1366	230256 01.0843	240057 01.1043	240118 00.9854	240134 01.0501
230122 01.2099	230182 01.0968	230257 01.1521	240058 01.1855	240119 00.8005	240135 01.0058
230123 01.0818	230183 01.2569	230258 01.8533	240059 00.9891	240120 00.9589	240136 01.0581
230124 01.0818	230184 01.1751	230259 01.0230	240060 01.1514	240121 00.9589	240137 01.0851
230125 01.2936	230185 01.1366	230260 01.1465	240061 01.3235	240122 01.0973	240138 00.9734
230126 01.3004	230186 01.0968	230261 01.0254	240062 01.0928	240123 01.0657	240139 01.0662
230127 01.6825	230187 01.1679	230262 01.1078	240063 01.1800	240124 01.0458	240140 00.8723
230128 01.3289	230188 01.1679	230263 01.0484	240064 01.1800	240125 01.0589	240141 01.0238
230129 01.2617	230189 01.1679	230264 01.1208	240065 01.0921	240126 01.0307	240142 01.2206
230130 01.1705	230190 01.1679	230265 01.2016	240066 01.0921	240127 01.0572	
230131 01.1705	230191 01.0440	230266 01.1465	240067 01.0921	240128 01.0572	
230132 01.0835	230192 01.2327	230267 01.0254	240068 01.0921	240129 00.9366	
230133 01.1814	230193 01.1591	230268 01.1521	240069 01.1514	240130 01.0429	
230134 01.0588	230194 01.1411	230269 01.2776	240070 01.1800	240131 01.2833	
230135 00.8890	230195 01.1411	230270 01.1816	240071 01.3235	240132 01.2384	
230136 01.0945	230196 01.0968	230271 01.2016	240072 01.0921	240133 01.1181	
230137 01.3518	230197 01.1679	230272 01.1465	240073 00.9891	240134 01.0501	
230138 01.1705	230198 01.1679	230273 01.0254	240074 01.0921	240135 01.0058	
230139 01.0835	230199 01.1679	230274 01.1078	240075 01.1514	240136 01.0581	
230140 01.0945	230200 01.0950	230275 01.1521	240076 01.1800	240137 01.0851	
230141 01.3518	230201 01.0440	230276 01.0254	240077 01.3235	240138 00.9734	
230142 01.1449	230202 01.2327	230277 01.1078	240078 01.0921	240139 01.0662	
230143 01.2824	230203 01.1591	230278 01.1521	240079 01.1800	240140 00.8723	
230144 01.1429	230204 01.1411	230279 01.0484	240080 01.0921	240141 01.0238	
230145 01.1410	230205 01.1591	230280 01.1208	240081 01.0921	240142 01.2206	
230146 01.1318	230206 01.1591	230281 01.1521	240082 01.0921		
230147 01.2447	230207 01.1411	230282 01.1521	240083 01.0921		
	230208 01.1411	230283 01.1521	240084 01.0921		
	230209 01.1411	230284 01.1521	240085 01.0921		
	230210 01.1411	230285 01.1521	240086 01.0921		
	230211 01.1411	230286 01.1521	240087 01.0921		
	230212 01.1411	230287 01.1521	240088 01.0921		
	230213 01.1411	230288 01.1521	240089 01.0921		
	230214 01.1411	230289 01.1521	240090 01.0921		
	230215 01.1411	230290 01.1521	240091 01.0921		
	230216 01.1411	230291 01.1521	240092 01.0921		
	230217 01.1411	230292 01.1521	240093 01.0921		
	230218 01.1411	230293 01.1521	240094 01.0921		
	230219 01.1411	230294 01.1521	240095 01.0921		
	230220 01.1411	230295 01.1521	240096 01.0921		
	230221 01.1411	230296 01.1521	240097 01.0921		
	230222 01.1411	230297 01.1521	240098 01.0921		

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX
240143	00.9912	250012	00.9273	250073	00.9423	250137	00.8628	260052	01.1551						
240144	01.0081	250014	01.0045	250075	00.9433	250138	01.0284	260053	01.0870						
240145	01.0019	250015	01.0159	250076	00.9045	250139	00.9145	260054	01.2222						
240146	00.9930	250016	00.8628	250077	00.9051	250140	00.8755	260055	01.0630						
240148	00.9501	250017	00.9005	250078	01.2181	260001	01.4340	260056	01.1122						
240150	00.9859	250018	01.0146	250079	00.8556	260002	01.3375	260057	01.0542						
240152	01.0220	250019	01.1509	250081	01.1209	260003	01.0349	260058	01.1841						
240153	01.0368	250020	00.9693	250082	01.1043	260004	01.0497	260059	00.9919						
240154	00.9688	250021	00.9090	250083	00.8746	260005	01.1939	260061	01.1092						
240155	00.9858	250023	00.8992	250084	01.1070	260006	01.2691	260062	01.1395						
240156	00.9518	250024	00.9321	250085	00.9771	260007	01.1687	260063	01.1545						
240157	01.1274	250025	00.9833	250086	01.0194	260008	01.2411	260064	01.2272						
240158	01.1935	250026	00.8558	250088	01.0448	260009	01.1738	260065	01.4152						
240160	01.0044	250027	00.9438	250089	01.0016	260010	01.1677	260066	01.0312						
240161	01.0317	250029	00.8852	250091	00.9088	260011	01.2576	260067	01.0490						
240162	01.1279	250030	00.9071	250093	01.1221	260012	00.9328	260068	01.7320						
240163	01.0240	250031	01.1171	250094	01.1322	260013	01.1247	260070	01.0308						
240165	00.9607	250032	01.1692	250095	01.0299	260014	01.4240	260073	01.0118						
240166	01.1417	250033	00.9084	250096	01.1049	260015	01.0474	260074	01.1148						
240167	00.9017	250034	01.3188	250097	01.0780	260016	01.1003	260077	01.2563						
240169	00.9443	250035	00.9125	250098	00.8920	260017	01.2288	260078	01.0583						
240170	01.0958	250036	00.9572	250099	01.0801	260018	00.9995	260079	01.0233						
240171	01.0508	250037	00.9479	250100	01.1586	260019	00.9974	260080	01.1676						
240172	01.0532	250038	00.9158	250101	00.8895	260020	01.4032	260081	01.4210						
240173	01.0078	250039	00.9318	250102	01.3658	260021	01.2517	260082	01.1620						
240175	00.8993	250040	01.0673	250104	01.1697	260022	01.3765	260085	01.3544						
240176	00.8596	250042	01.0452	250105	00.8789	260023	01.2244	260086	01.0274						
240177	01.0684	250043	00.8623	250107	00.9231	260024	01.0583	260088	01.1599						
240179	01.0464	250044	01.0092	250109	00.8959	260025	01.1855	260089	01.0848						
240180	01.0218	250045	01.0533	250110	00.9324	260026	01.0422	260090	01.2996						
240183	01.1786	250046	00.9721	250111	00.8397	260027	01.3377	260091	01.4352						
240184	01.0042	250047	00.8854	250112	00.9273	260029	01.1340	260092	01.0086						
240187	01.1808	250048	01.2611	250113	00.9354	260030	01.1440	260093	01.0597						
240192	00.9418	250049	00.9202	250114	00.8516	260031	01.3602	260094	01.1039						
240193	00.9429	250050	01.1600	250117	00.9623	260032	01.4510	260095	01.2957						
240196	01.3765	250051	00.8500	250118	01.0504	260033	01.2928	260096	01.3333						
240200	00.9361	250057	01.0358	250119	00.9296	260034	01.0639	260097	01.1522						
240201	01.0210	250058	01.0773	250120	01.0615	260035	00.9834	260100	01.1008						
240207	01.1862	250059	01.0004	250121	00.9602	260036	01.0613	260102	01.0554						
240210	01.2955	250060	00.8165	250122	01.1993	260037	01.2415	260103	01.2042						
250001	01.3791	250061	00.9927	250123	01.1109	260039	01.2658	260104	01.4094						
250002	00.8609	250062	01.0416	250124	00.8891	260040	01.3348	260105	01.7396						
250003	00.8786	250063	00.9072	250125	01.0524	260041	01.0590	260107	01.2457						
250004	01.2593	250065	01.0152	250126	00.9770	260042	01.1540	260108	01.5593						
250005	00.9911	250066	00.9068	250128	01.0579	260044	01.1035	260109	00.9835						
250006	00.9529	250067	01.0799	250129	01.0424	260047	01.1818	260110	01.4035						
250007	01.0321	250068	00.8624	250131	01.0021	260048	01.1554	260111	01.0736						
250008	00.8651	250069	01.1203	250132	00.9932	260049	00.9341	260112	01.3148						
250009	01.0931	250071	01.0072	250133	00.8569	260050	01.0212	260113	01.1223						
250010	01.0148	250072	01.1222	250134	01.0132	260051	01.0778	260115	01.0767						

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

PERIODS BEGINNING IN FY1987

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX	PROVIDER	CASE MIX
260116	01.1430	270004	01.6825	270073	01.0244	280055	00.9958	280122	00.5067				
260118	01.2451	270006	00.8845	270079	00.9506	280056	01.1050	280123	00.3778				
260119	01.2422	270007	00.9627	270080	01.1401	280057	01.0551	290001	00.9762				
260120	01.1454	270008	00.9363	270081	00.9518	280058	01.1387	290002	00.9762				
260122	01.0553	270009	00.9995	270082	00.8982	280059	01.1387	290003	01.5105				
260123	01.0007	270011	01.0975	270083	01.0722	280060	01.3170	290004	01.2205				
260127	01.0295	270012	01.3620	280001	01.1084	280061	01.2777	290005	01.0306				
260128	01.0648	270013	01.1548	280002	01.1250	280062	01.1250	290006	01.4806				
260129	01.0783	270014	01.4380	280003	01.1393	280063	01.0915	290007	01.2197				
260131	01.2475	270015	00.8973	280004	01.1393	280064	01.2414	290008	01.2920				
260134	01.1056	270016	00.8973	280005	01.3801	280065	01.1335	290009	01.0822				
260137	01.1734	270017	01.2475	280006	01.3143	280066	00.9104	290010	01.0415				
260138	01.5596	270018	01.0156	280007	01.1475	280067	01.0210	290011	01.2065				
260141	01.7046	270019	00.9260	280008	01.0272	280068	00.9497	290012	01.2065				
260142	01.1765	270021	01.1128	280009	01.2409	280069	00.9954	290013	00.9549				
260143	01.3462	270023	01.3066	280010	01.4791	280070	01.1065	290014	00.9711				
260146	01.0092	270024	00.9325	280011	01.1326	280071	01.0871	290015	00.9165				
260147	01.0156	270026	00.9341	280012	01.1278	280072	01.0047	290016	01.0507				
260148	00.9096	270027	01.0717	280013	01.2278	280073	01.3137	290017	01.1323				
260158	01.1813	270028	01.0253	280014	01.0186	280074	01.0647	290018	00.8192				
260159	01.0140	270029	00.9887	280015	01.0186	280075	01.0647	290019	01.1323				
260160	01.1576	270030	00.9383	280016	01.3793	280076	01.0647	290020	00.9161				
260162	01.2053	270031	00.8965	280017	01.0764	280077	01.0647	290021	01.4112				
260163	01.1448	270032	01.1088	280018	01.2702	280078	01.0298	290022	01.4946				
260164	01.0677	270033	00.8677	280019	01.0764	280079	01.3291	290023	01.0346				
260165	00.9847	270035	00.8828	280020	01.2702	280080	00.9169	290024	01.0115				
260166	01.1787	270036	00.8677	280021	00.8928	280081	01.0219	290025	01.2212				
260172	01.1124	270039	01.0723	280022	01.0948	280082	01.4897	290026	01.2352				
260173	01.1686	270041	00.9887	280023	01.0304	280083	01.2450	290027	01.0816				
260175	01.1589	270042	01.1630	280024	00.9248	280084	00.9986	290028	01.5878				
260176	01.3369	270043	00.8183	280025	01.0137	280085	01.4897	290029	01.2267				
260177	01.2882	270044	01.0497	280026	01.0137	280086	01.0121	290030	01.0530				
260178	01.2752	270046	00.9439	280027	01.0382	280087	01.0674	290031	01.0457				
260179	01.3668	270047	00.8434	280028	01.0035	280088	01.0378	290032	01.1262				
260180	01.2547	270048	01.0087	280029	01.0035	280089	00.9158	290033	01.1950				
260182	01.0545	270049	01.2801	280030	01.0851	280090	01.0741	290034	01.2180				
260183	01.2727	270050	00.9665	280031	01.1854	280091	01.0021	290035	01.1918				
260186	01.1102	270051	01.0767	280032	01.0150	280092	01.0655	290036	01.1945				
260188	01.1698	270052	00.9028	280033	01.4682	280093	01.0543	290037	01.0625				
260189	00.9924	270053	00.9028	280034	01.0981	280094	00.8920	290038	01.2168				
260190	01.1317	270055	00.8111	280041	01.1273	280095	01.1736	290039	01.0737				
260191	01.1798	270057	00.8111	280042	01.0398	280096	01.1097	290040	01.1676				
260192	00.7967	270058	01.1639	280043	01.0674	280097	01.0661	290041	01.1881				
260193	01.1808	270059	00.9615	280044	01.1560	280098	01.0661	290042	01.1999				
260195	01.0480	270060	00.9644	280045	01.1384	280099	01.0454	290043	01.1450				
260197	01.1440	270063	00.8575	280046	01.1384	280100	01.0655	290044	01.1050				
260200	01.1025	270067	00.9200	280047	01.0302	280101	01.0543	290045	01.0893				
270001	00.9084	270068	00.9362	280048	01.0891	280102	01.1890	290046	01.1218				
270002	01.0460	270071	00.8914	280049	01.0080	280103	00.9572	290047	01.1553				
270003	01.0885	270072	00.9122	280050	01.0656	280104	01.0861	290048	01.1186				
				280051	01.1090	280105	01.1919	290049	01.2416				
				280052	01.1529	280106	01.1628	290050					
				280054		280107		290051					
						280108		290052					
						280109		290053					
						280110		290054					
						280111		290055					
						280112		290056					
						280113		290057					
						280114		290058					
						280115		290059					
						280116		290060					
						280117		290061					
						280118		290062					
						280119		290063					
						280120		290064					
						280121		290065					
						280122		290066					
						280123		290067					
						280124		290068					
						280125		290069					
						280126		290070					
						280127		290071					
						280128		290072					
						280129		290073					
						280130		290074					
						280131		290075					
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						280133		290077					
						280134		290078					
						280135		290079					
						280136		290080					
						280137		290081					
						280138		290082					
						280139		290083					
						280140		290084					
						280141		290085					
						280142		290086					
						280143		290087					
						280144		290088					
						280145		290089					
						280146		290090					
						280147		290091					
						280148		290092					
						280149		290093					
						280150		290094					
						280151		290095					
						280152		290096					
						280153		290097					
						280154		290098					
						280155		290099					
						280156		290100					
						280157		290101					
						280158		290102					
						280159		290103					
						280160		290104					
						280161		290105					
						280162		290106					
						280163		290107					
						280164		290108					
						280165		290109					
						280166		290110					
						280167		290111					
						280168		290112					
						280169		290113					
						280170		290114					
						280171		290115					
						280172		290116					
						280173		290117					

[illegible]

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.

: CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

[illegible]

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

[illegible]

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
: CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX
490015 01.2335	490088 01.0749	500015 01.2248	500075 01.2624	510012 01.0609		
490017 01.2516	490089 00.9967	500016 01.3459	500076 01.2865	510013 01.1178		
490018 01.0853	490090 01.1650	500017 01.1745	500077 01.2213	510014 01.1645		
490019 01.1373	490091 01.2181	500018 01.1464	500078 01.2571	510015 00.9668		
490020 01.0197	490092 01.0880	500019 01.2186	500079 01.1411	510016 00.9906		
490021 01.1066	490093 01.1899	500020 01.3496	500080 00.9561	510017 01.1223		
490022 01.2028	490094 01.0793	500021 01.1358	500081 01.1269	510018 00.8780		
490023 01.1382	490095 01.1936	500022 01.3214	500082 01.0409	510019 01.0527		
490024 01.4047	490096 01.0840	500023 01.8917	500083 01.2730	510020 01.4006		
490027 01.0361	490098 01.2012	500024 01.2476	500084 01.2476	510021 01.0197		
490028 01.1406	490099 01.0609	500025 01.4868	500085 01.2773	510022 01.1852		
490029 01.0819	490100 01.2293	500026 00.9678	500086 01.0904	510023 00.9405		
490030 01.1490	490101 01.0901	500027 00.9462	500087 00.8906	510024 00.9656		
490031 01.0601	490102 00.8512	500028 01.3436	500088 01.0688	510025 01.1060		
490032 01.6038	490103 00.8645	500029 01.1683	500089 01.1297	510026 01.1014		
490033 01.1814	490104 00.9408	500030 01.2590	500090 01.1652	510027 01.1290		
490035 01.0502	490105 01.1371	500031 01.0630	500091 01.1415	510028 01.0845		
490037 01.0796	490106 00.9423	500032 01.3385	500092 01.0295	510029 01.1744		
490038 01.1073	490107 00.8442	500033 01.2087	500093 01.0634	510030 01.1900		
490040 01.1883	490108 01.0472	500034 01.0752	500094 01.0330	510031 00.9627		
490041 01.1376	490109 01.0578	500035 01.2103	500095 00.9330	510032 01.1656		
490042 01.1363	490110 01.4024	500036 01.1557	500096 01.0877	510033 01.0643		
490043 01.1417	490111 01.0776	500037 01.2157	500097 01.1747	510034 01.1453		
490044 01.1636	490112 01.0443	500038 01.2139	500098 00.8779	510035 01.0102		
490045 01.1253	490113 01.0595	500039 01.1359	500099 01.1233	510036 01.0647		
490046 01.2324	490114 01.0471	500040 01.7901	500100 01.6028	510037 00.8546		
490047 01.1093	490115 00.9860	500041 01.1417	500101 01.1229	510038 01.2810		
490048 01.2023	490116 01.4439	500042 01.2746	500102 01.2335	510039 01.1705		
490050 01.1690	490117 01.2194	500043 00.8947	500103 01.2893	510040 01.1111		
490052 01.3321	490118 01.2442	500044 00.9448	500104 01.1931	510041 01.1510		
490053 01.2049	490119 01.1471	500045 01.1491	500105 01.2542	510042 00.9994		
490054 01.0793	490120 01.1031	500046 01.3726	500106 01.2577	510043 00.9034		
490055 00.8856	490121 01.2198	500047 01.1122	500107 00.8361	510044 01.1826		
490057 01.1876	490122 00.9572	500048 01.7028	500108 01.2393	510045 01.1903		
490059 01.2713	490123 01.1030	500049 01.0040	500109 01.2434	510046 00.8316		
490060 01.0082	490124 01.0233	500050 01.1932	500110 01.5164	510047 01.1223		
490062 01.3814	490125 01.0489	500051 01.2598	500111 00.9727	510048 01.0431		
490063 01.0359	490126 01.1495	500052 01.2549	500112 01.1469	510049 01.1250		
490066 01.1135	490127 00.9183	500053 01.1096	500113 01.1551	510050 01.2277		
490067 01.1725	490128 01.3090	500054 01.1017	500114 01.1500	510051 01.0663		
490069 01.1802	490129 01.3322	500055 01.0217	500115 01.3715	510052 01.0075		
490071 01.1557	490130 01.2474	500056 01.1387	500116 01.1586	510053 01.0958		
490073 01.2634	490131 01.5250	500057 01.0665	500117 01.0665	510054 01.1553		
490074 01.1711	490132 01.2742	500058 00.9845	510001 01.0003	510055 01.1067		
490075 01.1260	490133 01.9605	500059 01.0206	510002 01.0565	510056 01.1123		
490077 00.9311	490134 01.2840	500060 01.0966	510003 01.1871	510057 01.1219		
490078 01.1091	490135 01.1657	500061 01.0966	510004 01.0947	510058 01.2529		
490079 01.1091	490136 01.2084	500062 01.0971	510005 01.2848	510059 01.1053		
490083 00.7464	490137 01.1755	500063 01.1755	510006 01.1588	510060 00.9492		
490084 01.0591	490138 01.1381	500064 01.1381	510007 01.1057	510061 00.9475		
490085 01.0518	490139 01.5119	500065 01.1857	510008 00.9010	510062 00.9974		

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
 : CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

TABLE 3D : HOSPITAL CASE MIX INDEXES FOR COST REPORTING

PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX	PROVIDER CASE MIX
510080 00.9437	520051 01.6768	520116 01.1119	530006 01.0903	530006 01.0903
510081 01.0151	520053 01.0491	520117 01.0240	530007 01.1810	530007 01.1810
510082 00.9709	520054 01.1011	520118 00.9370	530008 01.0768	530008 01.0768
510084 00.8698	520056 01.1258	520120 01.0173	530009 01.0392	530009 01.0392
510085 01.1383	520057 01.0850	520121 01.0274	530010 01.0886	530010 01.0886
510086 01.0004	520058 01.0907	520122 01.0129	530011 01.1873	530011 01.1873
520001 01.2564	520059 01.2320	520123 01.0765	530012 01.4136	530012 01.4136
520002 01.2540	520060 01.1432	520124 01.0952	530014 01.1296	530014 01.1296
520003 01.1329	520062 01.1916	520125 00.9266	530015 01.1064	530015 01.1064
520004 01.2628	520063 01.2328	520127 00.9422	530016 01.1172	530016 01.1172
520006 01.0985	520064 01.3930	520130 00.9797	530017 00.9429	530017 00.9429
520007 01.0683	520066 01.1874	520131 01.0939	530018 01.0423	530018 01.0423
520008 01.1746	520068 00.8821	520132 01.1962	530019 00.9077	530019 00.9077
520009 01.3156	520069 01.2111	520134 01.0401	530022 01.0237	530022 01.0237
520010 01.0721	520070 01.2540	520135 00.9544	530023 00.9157	530023 00.9157
520011 01.1012	520071 01.1384	520136 01.3746	530024 01.0068	530024 01.0068
520012 00.8831	520074 01.0801	520138 01.6740	530025 01.2337	530025 01.2337
520013 01.2196	520075 01.2845	520139 01.2532	530026 01.1011	530026 01.1011
520014 01.1754	520076 01.1756	520140 01.3105	530027 00.9788	530027 00.9788
520015 01.1866	520077 01.0775	520141 01.0120	530029 01.0934	530029 01.0934
520016 01.0373	520078 01.2193	520142 00.9465	530031 00.9567	530031 00.9567
520017 01.1046	520081 01.2206	520143 01.0334	530032 00.9759	530032 00.9759
520018 01.1005	520082 01.2150	520144 00.9892		
520019 01.1881	520083 01.4238	520145 01.0671		
520020 01.3339	520084 01.0724	520146 01.1752		
520021 01.1635	520087 01.4048	520148 01.1442		
520022 01.0612	520088 01.1729	520149 01.0785		
520024 00.9991	520089 01.2566	520151 01.0116		
520025 01.0975	520090 01.1199	520152 01.1309		
520026 01.0899	520091 01.3479	520153 01.0399		
520027 01.1958	520092 01.1165	520154 01.1236		
520028 01.3055	520094 01.3587	520156 01.0896		
520029 00.9801	520095 01.2119	520157 01.0499		
520030 01.3711	520096 01.1669	520159 00.9490		
520031 01.1672	520097 01.2411	520160 01.6914		
520032 01.1510	520098 01.5468	520161 01.0327		
520033 01.1988	520100 01.1087	520167 01.1716		
520034 01.2232	520101 01.1224	520170 01.1499		
520035 01.1510	520102 01.1134	520171 00.9675		
520037 01.5429	520103 01.2561	520173 01.1305		
520038 01.1756	520104 00.8933	520174 01.3299		
520039 01.0417	520105 00.9702	520175 00.7773		
520040 01.2548	520107 01.1882	520177 01.3250		
520041 01.0950	520109 01.0349	520178 01.2083		
520042 01.0851	520110 01.0458	520184 00.7029		
520044 01.2866	520111 01.0995	530001 01.0927		
520045 01.4440	520112 01.0898	530002 01.1657		
520047 00.9605	520113 01.1869	530003 00.9091		
520048 01.2729	520114 01.1055	530004 01.0428		
520049 01.6844	520115 01.1455	530005 01.0684		

NOTE: CASE MIX INDEXES DO NOT INCLUDE DISCHARGES FROM PPS-EXEMPT UNITS.
 : CASE MIX INDEXES INCLUDE CASES RECEIVED IN HCFA CENTRAL OFFICE THROUGH NOVEMBER 1989.

[FR Doc. 90-9208 Filed 4-17-90; 1:43 pm]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-C

federal register

**Friday
April 20, 1990**

Part VI

The President

Proclamation 6116—National Farm Safety Week, 1990

**Memorandum of April 18, 1990—
Delegation of Authority To Ratify Office
of Thrift Supervision Actions Taken
Before April 9, 1990**

Friday
April 20, 1990

Part VI

The President

Production of the National Film

Week, 1990

Memorandum of April 13, 1990—

Deletion of Authority to Rally

to the Supreme Court

Before April 13, 1990

Presidential Documents

Title 3—

Proclamation 6116 of April 18, 1990

The President

National Farm Safety Week, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the 1990's, our Nation's strength and prosperity will largely depend—as they have in the past—upon a strong agricultural base. The abundance of low-cost, high-quality food and fiber produced by our farmers and ranchers is vital to sustaining the health and well-being of the American people, as well as the Nation's economic productivity and competitiveness.

Tragically, however, those Americans engaged in agricultural production continue to bear a high rate of accidental death, injury, and illness. The costs in terms of lost productivity are enormous; the toll in personal suffering and loss is immeasurable.

Far too many farming and ranching accidents involve children, who are at increased risk from workplace hazards. Compounding the severity of many farming-related injuries and illnesses is the geographic distance of farms and ranches from municipal emergency assistance. When an accident, fire, or other crisis occurs, the time that must be spent waiting for help can make a situation life-threatening. Injuries and death from occupational accidents and illnesses are all the more tragic because most are preventable.

Advances in science and technology have made agricultural tools and chemicals safer, but these advances alone cannot eliminate all the safety risks of farming. As always, farmers and ranchers, workers, and their family members must take responsibility for implementing the steps necessary to establish and maintain a safe and healthy farming or ranching operation.

Work-related injuries and illness often can be prevented through simple, sensible measures that involve little or no extra time, effort, or expense. These measures include the proper and consistent use of standard protective equipment; controlling exposure to toxic chemicals and gases; and training everyone on the ranch or farm in safety procedures and first aid.

The busy harvest season is a most fitting time to express our concern and our appreciation for the Nation's farmers and ranchers. During National Farm Safety Week, we renew our support for programs designed to protect their health and safety. All of these hardworking Americans should be able to reap the fruits of their labor with a sense of achievement and security.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of September 16 through September 22, 1990, as National Farm Safety Week. I urge all persons who live and work on farms and ranches to make their safety and health—on the job, on the road, at home, and at leisure—a priority. I also urge them to protect their children, not only by instruction in safe practices but also by personal example. I call upon agricultural organizations to strengthen their support for community health and safety programs, and I encourage all Americans to take part in appropriate activities in observance of National Farm Safety Week as we acknowledge the many contributions that men and women in agriculture make to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

[FR Doc. 90-9451

Filed 4-19-90; 12:29 pm]

Billing code 3195-01-M

George H. W. Bush

Presidential Documents

Memorandum of April 18, 1990

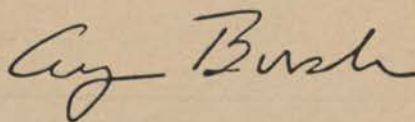
Delegation of Authority To Ratify Office of Thrift Supervision Actions Taken Before April 9, 1990

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision my authority to ratify actions taken on behalf of, or in the name of, the Office of Thrift Supervision or its Director before April 9, 1990.

This memorandum shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 18, 1990



[FR Doc. 90-9435

Filed 4-19-90; 11:29 am]

Billing code 3195-01-M