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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 29

[Doc. No. AMS-CN-25-0027]

RIN 0581-AE39

Tobacco Grading and Inspections Services—Rescission of Regulations Establishing Tobacco Price Support Provisions

Correction

In rule document 2025-09552, appearing on pages 22843 through 22845 in the issue of Friday, May 30, 2025, make the following correction:

On page 22843, in the **DATES** section, in the second line, “June 30, 2025” should read “July 29, 2025”.

[FR Doc. C1-2025-09552 Filed 6-2-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 0099-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1222

[Doc. No. AMS-SC-25-0035]

Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order; Continuance Referendum and Moratorium on Assessment Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notification of referendum and moratorium on assessment collection.

SUMMARY: This document directs that a referendum be conducted among eligible domestic manufacturers and importers of paper and paper-based packaging to determine whether they favor continuance of the Agricultural Marketing Service’s (AMS) regulations regarding a national paper and paper-based packaging research and promotion program. AMS is also

announcing an immediate moratorium on the collection of assessments under the program.

DATES: This referendum will be conducted by express mail and electronic ballot from July 14, 2025, through July 25, 2025. Ballots delivered to AMS via express mail or electronic ballot must show proof of delivery by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 25, 2025. Eligible persons will receive a ballot through mail and may cast a ballot through express mail or electronic ballot. Each person who is an eligible domestic manufacturer or importer at the time of the referendum and during the representative period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, shall be entitled to cast a ballot in the referendum.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order may be obtained from: Referendum Agent, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program (SCP), AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 1406-S, Stop 0244, Washington, DC 20250-0244, telephone: (202) 720-8085 or contact George Webster at (202) 365-4172 or via electronic mail: George.Webster@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George Webster, Marketing Specialist, Market Development Division, SCP, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 1406-S, Stop 0244, Washington, DC 20250-0244; telephone: (202) 365-4172 or via electronic mail: George.Webster@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411-7425) (Act), it is hereby directed that a referendum be conducted to ascertain whether continuance of the Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order (Order) (7 CFR part 1222) is favored by a majority of eligible domestic manufacturers and importers of paper and paper-based packaging covered under the program. Until results of the referendum are ascertained, a moratorium on the collection of assessments from domestic manufacturers and importers under the Order is announced effective immediately in order to effectuate the purposes of the Act. The Order is authorized under the Act.

The representative period for establishing voter eligibility for the referendum shall be the period from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Persons who are currently domestic manufacturers and have domestically manufactured 100,000 short tons or more of paper and paper-based packaging, and persons who are currently importers and have imported 100,000 short tons or more of paper and paper-based packaging, during the representative period are eligible to vote in the referendum. Persons who received an exemption from assessments pursuant to § 1222.53 for the entire representative period are ineligible to vote. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide the option for electronic balloting. The referendum will be conducted by express mail and electronic ballot from July 14, 2025, through July 25, 2025. Further details will be provided in the ballot instructions.

Section 518 of the Act (7 U.S.C. 7411-7425) authorizes continuance referenda. Under § 1222.81(b) of the Order, USDA must conduct a referendum no later than seven years after the program became effective and every seven years thereafter; at the request of the Board established in this Order; at the request of 10 percent or more of the number of persons eligible to vote in a referendum as set forth under the Order; or at any time as determined by the Secretary to determine if persons subject to assessment favor continuance of the program. In January 2025, USDA received a petition requesting a referendum, which was signed by more than the required 10 percent of eligible entities. This request initiated this referendum process. Effective immediately, there will be a moratorium on the collection of assessments while USDA conducts the continuance referendum, per the request of the Paper and Packaging Board and in order to effectuate the purposes of the Act.

USDA would continue the Order if it is favored by a majority of domestic manufacturers and importers of paper and paper-based packaging voting in the referendum who also represent a majority of the volume of paper and paper-based packaging represented in the referendum and who, during the representative time period, have been engaged in the manufacturing or importation of paper and paper-based

packaging. If continuance of the Order is favored, USDA would also lift the moratorium on assessment collection. If, as a result of the referendum, the Secretary determines that the Order is not approved, USDA will comply with the termination procedures at 7 CFR 1222.82.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the referendum ballot has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB No. 0581-0093. It has been estimated that approximately 40 entities will be eligible to vote in the referendum. It will take an average of 15 minutes for each voter to read the voting instructions and complete the referendum ballot.

Referendum Order

George Webster, Marketing Specialist, and Kelly Robertson, Acting Branch Chief, Mid-Atlantic Region Branch, Market Development Division, SCP, AMS, USDA, Stop 0244, Room 1406-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0244, are designated as the referendum agents to conduct this referendum. The referendum procedures at 7 CFR 1222.100 through 1222.108, which were issued pursuant to the Act, shall be used to conduct the referendum.

The referendum agents will express mail ballots and voting instructions, including how to vote electronically, to all known, eligible domestic manufacturers and importers prior to the first day of the voting period. Any eligible domestic manufacturer or importer who does not receive a ballot should contact a referendum agent no later than three days before the end of the voting period. Ballots delivered via express mail or electronic ballot must show proof of delivery by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 25, 2025.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1222

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Consumer information, Marketing agreements, Paper and paper-based-packaging promotion, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

(Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7411-7425; 7 U.S.C. 7401)

Erin Morris,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2025-10053 Filed 6-2-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

13 CFR Parts 107, 120, 142 and 146

RIN 3245-AI01

Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Small Business Administration (SBA) is amending its regulations to adjust for inflation the amount of certain civil monetary penalties that are within the jurisdiction of the agency. These adjustments comply with the requirement in the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, to make annual adjustments to the penalties.

DATES: This rule is effective June 3, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arlene Embrey, 202-205-6976 or at arlene.embrey@sba.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On November 2, 2015, the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (the 2015 Inflation Adjustment Act), Public Law 114-74, 129 Stat. 584, was enacted. This act amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-410, 104 Stat. 890 (the 1990 Inflation Adjustment Act), to improve the effectiveness of civil monetary penalties and to maintain their deterrent effect. The 2015 Inflation Adjustment Act required agencies to issue a final rule by August 1, 2016, to adjust the level of civil monetary penalties with an initial “catch-up” adjustment and to annually adjust these monetary penalties for inflation by January 15 of each subsequent year.

Based on the definition of a “civil monetary penalty” in the 1990 Inflation Adjustment Act, agencies are to make adjustments only to the civil penalties that (i) are for a specific monetary amount as provided by federal law or have a maximum amount provided for by Federal law; (ii) are assessed or enforced by an agency; and (iii) are enforced or assessed in an administrative proceeding or a civil action in the Federal courts. Therefore, penalties that are stated as a percentage of an indeterminate amount or as a function of a violation (penalties that encompass actual damages incurred) are not to be adjusted.

SBA published in the **Federal Register** an interim final rule with its initial adjustments to the civil monetary penalties, including an initial “catch-up” adjustment, on May 19, 2016 (81 FR 31489), with an effective date of August 1, 2016. SBA published its first annual adjustments to the monetary penalties on February 9, 2017 (82 FR 9967), with an immediate effective date. SBA published its subsequent annual adjustments for 2018 on February 21, 2018 (83 FR 7361), for 2019 on April 1, 2019 (84 FR 12059), for 2020 on March 10, 2020 (85 FR 13725), for 2021 on September 24, 2021 (86 FR 52955), for 2022 on May 11, 2022 (87 FR 28756), for 2023 on August 1, 2023 (88 FR 50003), and for 2024 on June 5, 2024 (89 FR 48132) all with immediate effective dates. This rule will establish the adjusted penalty amounts for 2025 with an immediate effective date upon publication.

On December 17, 2024, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published its annual guidance memorandum for 2025 civil monetary penalties inflation adjustments (M-24-02, Implementation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2025 pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015). The memorandum provides the formula for calculating the annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the month of October preceding the adjustment, and specifically on the change between the October CPI-U preceding the date of adjustment and the prior year's CPI-U. Based on this methodology, the 2025 civil monetary penalty inflation adjustment factor is 1.02598 (October 2024 CPI-U (315.664)/October 2023 CPI-U (307.671)). The annual adjustment amounts identified in this rule were obtained by applying this multiplier of 1.02598 to those penalty amounts that were published in SBA's 2024 adjustments to civil monetary penalties at 89 FR 48132 (June 5, 2024).

II. Civil Money Penalties Adjusted by This Rule

This rule adjusts civil monetary penalties authorized by the Small Business Act, the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (SBI Act), the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act, and the Byrd Amendment to the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act. These penalties and the implementing regulations are discussed below.

1. 13 CFR 107.665—Civil Penalties

SBA licenses, regulates, and provides financial assistance to financial entities