

February to November annually, and the industry will benefit from extension of the status quo, which will reduce the risk of shifting legal regimes and lack of clarity in the event the rule goes into effect and is later modified or altered by court order.

If the court were to vacate, enjoin or modify the rule shortly before or after it otherwise would become effective, there would be costs associated with reverting back to the previous regulatory regime on short notice. It will be disruptive for the industry to change the structure of its shows and the list of prohibitions in the event of a shifting regulatory change, *e.g.*, if the court decides in favor of plaintiffs in any material respect. It may also be disruptive to horse owners and trainers who do not know whether to sell, relinquish, or re-train their horses to compete in the flat-shod division while the litigation is pending. A postponement will preserve the existing status quo—a legal and regulatory regime that has applied for years prior to the effective date—and eliminate uncertainty for the duration of the postponement, providing predictability to the regulated industry for at least the beginning of the 2025 show season, which starts on or about February 28, 2025.

Given this legal uncertainty and the significant issues raised in the litigation, maintaining the status quo will avoid harm to the regulated industry, including plaintiffs and similarly situated stakeholders. Setting aside plaintiffs' legal challenges to the rule, we also note that other stakeholders have requested a postponement of the effective date for related reasons arising from the impending show season and a lack of clarity as to how the rule will operate: For example, one stakeholder group has conveyed to the Agency that proceeding forward with the original implementation date will undermine confidence in the Agency, the rule, and the ability to enforce the rule in a fair and transparent manner. Among other concerns, the stakeholder cited significant confusion within the industry about the rule, and has received numerous questions and concerns on a daily basis. There are also questions regarding Agency resources and whether personnel and funding are sufficient to implement the new rule. In light of this lack of clarity, the stakeholder requested that the Agency consider a postponement of the effective date of the rule, in order to afford it an opportunity to work collaboratively with APHIS to ensure that the rule achieves its intended purpose.

Like the harm to the industry of not issuing a postponement, as discussed

above, there are significant costs to the Agency associated with a change in regulatory regimes (*i.e.*, if the rule is enjoined), such as investments in training of personnel, resources required to conduct stakeholder outreach, and potentially disruptions to administrative enforcement actions. A sixty-day delay will provide the Agency additional time to assess the impact of any decision and respond accordingly.

The Agency has considered the public interest in furthering the humane treatment of horses and the effect to the regulated industry and APHIS, as described above. Considering the harms associated with regulatory uncertainty against the limited duration of the postponement of the rule, APHIS has determined that the balance of harms weighs in favor of a 60-day postponement. In accordance with law, this postponement is made without a notice-and-comment period. Notice and comment is not required when an agency delays the effective date of a rule under section 705 of the APA because such a stay is not substantive rulemaking; it merely maintains the status quo to allow for judicial review. *See Bauer v. DeVos*, 325 F. Supp. 3d 74, 106–07 (D.D.C. 2018); *Sierra Club v. Jackson*, 833 F. Supp. 2d 11, 28 (D.D.C. 2012).

This postponement likewise is in accordance with the Presidential Memorandum titled “Regulatory Freeze Pending Review” issued January 20, 2025, which orders all agencies to consider postponing for 60 days the effective date of any rule that has not taken effect, for the purpose of reviewing any question of fact, law or policy that the rule raises.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 705; 15 U.S.C. 1823–1825 and 1828; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.7.

Done in Washington, DC, this 23rd day of January 2025.

Bruce Summers,

Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 51, 52, 81, and 751

[FRL–12583–01–OA]

Delay of Effective Date for 4 Final Regulations Published by the Environmental Protection Agency Between November 29, 2024, and December 31, 2024

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule; delay of effective dates.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the memorandum of January 20, 2025, from President Donald J. Trump, entitled “Regulatory Freeze Pending Review,” this action temporarily delays until March 21, 2025, the effective date of the regulations listed in the table below. EPA has initially identified 4 regulations that meet the criteria in the memo and may identify additional regulations in subsequent notices.

DATES: As of January 28, 2025, the effective date of the rules published at 89 FR 102568 (12/17/2024), 89 FR 95034 (11/29/2024), 89 FR 106357 (12/30/2024), and 89 FR 107012 (12/31/2024), are delayed to a new effective date of March 21, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Nickerson, Director, Office of Regulatory Policy and Management, Office of Policy, Mail code 1804, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460; (202) 566–0326; nickerson.william@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA is taking this action in response to the memorandum of January 20, 2025, from the President, entitled “Regulatory Freeze Pending Review.” The memorandum directed the heads of Executive Departments and Agencies to consider postponing for sixty days from the date of the memorandum the effective date for any rules that have been published in the **Federal Register** but had not yet taken effect for the purpose of reviewing any questions of fact, law, and policy that the rules may raise. EPA is delaying the effective dates for the 4 regulations listed in the table below. The new effective date for these regulations is March 21, 2025.

The EPA is taking this action, without opportunity for public comment and effective immediately, based on the good cause exceptions in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) and 553(d)(3), in that seeking public comment is impracticable, unnecessary and contrary to the public

interest. The temporary delay in effective dates until March 21, 2025, is necessary to give Agency officials the opportunity for further review and consideration of new regulations, consistent with the memorandum of the President, dated January 20, 2025. Given the imminence of the effective dates of these regulations, seeking prior public comment on this temporary delay is

impractical, as well as contrary to the public interest in the orderly promulgation and implementation of regulations. In addition, to the extent any regulation below is an interpretive rule, general statement of policy, or rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice, it is exempt from notice and comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A).

For the foregoing reasons, the good cause exception in 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) also applies to EPA's decision to make this action effectively immediately. Moreover, to the extent that extending the effective date of any of these rules would grant an exception or relieve a restriction, an exception also applies under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1).

Federal Register citation	Title	Publication date	Original effective date	New effective date
89 FR 102568	Trichloroethylene (TCE); Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).	12/17/2024	¹ 1/16/2025	3/21/2025
89 FR 95034	Appendix W—Revisions to the Guideline on Air Quality Models	11/29/2024	1/28/2025	3/21/2025
89 FR 106357	Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Alton Township 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Redesignation and Maintenance Plan.	12/30/2024	1/29/2025	3/21/2025
89 FR 107012	Air Plan Revisions; California; Feather River Air Quality Management District.	12/31/2024	1/30/2025	3/21/2025

¹ On December 17, 2024, EPA published a final rule under section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (15 U.S.C. 2605(a)) to address the unreasonable risk of injury to health presented by trichloroethylene, with an effective date of January 16, 2025. *Trichloroethylene (TCE); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)*, 89 FR 102568 (Dec. 17, 2024). Thirteen petitions for review of that rule were filed in various Circuits of the United States Courts of Appeals. On January 13, 2025, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals granted a petitioner's motion to temporarily stay the rule's effective date. The petitions were then consolidated by the Judicial Panel for Multidistrict Litigation and transferred to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. By an order dated January 16, 2025, the Third Circuit left the temporary stay of the effective date in place pending briefing on whether the temporary stay of the effective date should remain in effect. Because of the decisions of the Fifth and Third Circuits, the rule never went into effect and is therefore also covered by the terms of the Regulatory Freeze Pending Review memorandum. Accordingly, the Agency includes this rule in this action.

Where appropriate, the Agency may consider further delaying the effective dates of the above-referenced regulations beyond March 21, 2025. If the Agency were to do so, consistent with the memorandum of the President, the Agency would consider whether to propose any later effective date for public comment.

James Payne,
Acting Administrator.
[FR Doc. 2025-01866 Filed 1-27-25; 8:45 am]
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Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
DATES: Effective January 28, 2025.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stefanie K. Davis, Deputy General Counsel and Ethics Officer, Legal Services Corporation, 1825 I St. NW, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 295-1563; sdavis@lsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1007(a)(2) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. 2996f(a)(2), requires LSC to establish maximum income levels for individuals eligible for legal assistance. Section 1611.3(c) of LSC's regulations establishes a maximum income level equivalent to 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (Guidelines), which HHS is responsible for updating and issuing. 45 CFR 1611.3(c).

Each year, LSC updates appendix A to 45 CFR part 1611 to provide client income eligibility standards based on the most recent Guidelines. The figures for 2025, set out below, are equivalent to 125% of the Guidelines published by HHS on January 17, 2025.

In addition, LSC is publishing a chart listing income levels that are 200% of the Guidelines. This chart is for reference purposes only as an aid to recipients in assessing the financial

eligibility of an applicant whose income is greater than 125% of the applicable Guidelines amount, but less than 200% of the applicable Guidelines amount (and who may be found to be financially eligible under duly adopted exceptions to the annual income ceiling in accordance with 45 CFR 1611.3, 1611.4, and 1611.5).

Except where there are minor variances due to rounding, the amount by which the guideline increases for each additional member of the household is a consistent amount.

List of Subjects in 45 CFR Part 1611

Grant programs—law, Legal services.

For reasons set forth in the preamble, the Legal Services Corporation amends 45 CFR part 1611 as follows:

PART 1611—ELIGIBILITY

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1611 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2996g(e).

■ 2. Revise appendix A to part 1611 to read as follows:

Appendix A to Part 1611—Income Level for Individuals Eligible for Assistance

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

45 CFR Part 1611

Income Level for Individuals Eligible for Assistance

AGENCY: Legal Services Corporation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is required by law to establish maximum income levels for individuals eligible for legal assistance. This document updates the specified income levels to reflect the annual amendments to the Federal Poverty Guidelines issued by the U.S.