



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary of the Interior

#### 43 CFR Part 10

[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-31250; PPWOVPADU0/PPMPRLE1Y.Y00000]

RIN 1024-AE67

#### Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** This rule revises U.S. Department of the Interior regulations implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to provide for annual adjustments of civil penalties to account for inflation under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 and Office of Management and Budget guidance. The purpose of these adjustments is to maintain the deterrent effect of civil penalties and to further the policy goals of the underlying statute.

**DATES:** This rule is effective on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melanie O'Brien, Manager, National NAGPRA Program, (202) 354-2204, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

On November 2, 2015, the President signed into law the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Sec. 701 of Public Law 114-74) (“the Act”). The Act requires Federal agencies to adjust the level of civil monetary

penalties annually for inflation no later than January 15 of each year.

## II. Calculation of Annual Adjustments

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently issued guidance to assist Federal agencies in implementing the annual adjustments required by the Act which agencies must complete by January 15, 2021. *See* December 23, 2020, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, from Russel T. Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget, re: *Implementation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2021, Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015* (M-21-10). The guidance states that the cost-of-living adjustment multiplier for 2021, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the month of October 2020, not seasonally adjusted, is 1.01182. (The annual inflation adjustments are based on the percent change between the October CPI-U preceding the date of the adjustment, and the prior year's October CPI-U.) The guidance instructs agencies to complete the 2021 annual adjustment by multiplying each applicable penalty by the multiplier, 1.01182, and rounding to the nearest dollar.

The annual adjustment applies to all civil monetary penalties with a dollar amount that are subject to the Act. A civil monetary penalty is any assessment with a dollar amount that is levied for a violation of a Federal civil statute or regulation, and is assessed or enforceable through a civil action in Federal court or an administrative proceeding. A civil monetary penalty does not include a penalty levied for violation of a criminal statute, or fees for services, licenses, permits, or other regulatory review. This final rule adjusts the following civil monetary penalties contained in the Department regulations implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) for 2021 by multiplying 1.01182 by each penalty amount as updated by the adjustment made in 2020:

CFR Citation	Description of the Penalty	Current Penalty Including	Annual Adjustment	Adjusted Penalty
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		Catch-Up Adjustment	(Multiplier)	
43 CFR 10.12(g)(2)	Failure of Museum to Comply	\$6,955	1.01182	\$7,037
43 CFR 10.12(g)(3)	Continued Failure to Comply Per Day	\$1,392	1.01182	\$1,408

Consistent with the Act, the adjusted penalty levels for 2021 will take effect immediately upon the effective date of the adjustment. The adjusted penalty levels for 2021 will apply to penalties assessed after that date including, if consistent with agency policy, assessments associated with violations that occurred on or after November 2, 2015. The Act does not, however, change previously assessed penalties that the Department is collecting or has collected. Nor does the Act change an agency's existing statutory authorities to adjust penalties.

### **III. Procedural Requirements**

#### **A. Regulatory Planning and Review (E.O. 12866 and 13563)**

Executive Order 12866 provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget will review all significant rules. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has determined that this rule is not significant.

Executive Order 13563 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866 while calling for improvements in the Nation's regulatory system to promote predictability, to reduce uncertainty, and to use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. The Executive order directs agencies to consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public where these approaches are relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives. E.O. 13563 emphasizes further that regulations must be based on the best available science and that the rulemaking process must allow for public participation and

an open exchange of ideas. We have developed this rule in a manner consistent with these requirements.

### **B. Regulatory Flexibility Act**

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis for rules unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency is required to first publish a proposed rule. See 5 U.S.C. 603(a) and 604(a). The RFA does not apply to this final rule because the Office of the Secretary is not required to publish a proposed rule for the reasons explained below in Section III.L.

### **C. Congressional Review Act**

This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2). This rule:

- (a) Does not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more.
- (b) Will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions.
- (c) Does not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

### **D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**

This rule does not impose an unfunded mandate on State, local, or tribal governments, or the private sector of more than \$100 million per year. The rule does not have a significant or unique effect on State, local, or tribal governments or the private sector. A statement containing the information required by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is not required.

### **E. Takings (E.O. 12630)**

This rule does not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking

implications under Executive Order 12630. A takings implication assessment is not required.

**F. Federalism (E.O. 13132)**

Under the criteria in section 1 of Executive Order 13132, this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. A federalism summary impact statement is not required.

**G. Civil Justice Reform (E.O. 12988)**

This rule complies with the requirements of E. O. 12988. Specifically, this rule:

- (a) Meets the criteria of section 3(a) requiring that all regulations be reviewed to eliminate errors and ambiguity and be written to minimize litigation; and
- (b) Meets the criteria of section 3(b)(2) requiring that all regulations be written in clear language and contain clear legal standards.

**H. Consultation with Indian Tribes (E.O. 13175 and Departmental policy)**

The Department of the Interior strives to strengthen its government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes through a commitment to consultation with Indian tribes and recognition of their right to self-governance and tribal sovereignty. We have evaluated this rule under the Department's consultation policy and under the criteria in Executive Order 13175 and have determined that it has no substantial direct effects on federally recognized Indian tribes and that consultation under the Department's tribal consultation policy is not required.

**I. Paperwork Reduction Act**

This rule does not contain information collection requirements, and a submission to the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is not required. We may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

## **J. National Environmental Policy Act**

This rule does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A detailed statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required because the rule is covered by a categorical exclusion. This rule is excluded from the requirement to prepare a detailed statement because it is a regulation of an administrative nature. (For further information see 43 CFR 46.210(i).) We have also determined that the rule does not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR 46.215 that would require further analysis under NEPA.

## **K. Effects on the Energy Supply (E.O. 13211)**

This rule is not a significant energy action under the definition in Executive Order 13211; the rule is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy, and the rule has not otherwise been designated by the Administrator of Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action. A Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

## **L. Administrative Procedure Act**

The Act requires agencies to publish annual inflation adjustments by no later than January 15 of each year, notwithstanding section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553). OMB has interpreted this direction to mean that the usual APA public procedure for rulemaking—which includes public notice of a proposed rule, an opportunity for public comment, and a delay in the effective date of a final rule—is not required when agencies issue regulations to implement the annual adjustments to civil penalties that the Act requires. Accordingly, we are issuing the 2021 annual adjustments as a final rule without prior notice or an opportunity for comment and with an effective date immediately upon publication in the Federal Register.

## **List of Subjects in 43 CFR Part 10**

Administrative practice and procedure, Hawaiian Natives, Historic preservation, Indians-claims, Indians-lands, Museums, Penalties, Public lands, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons given in the preamble, the Office of the Secretary amends 43 CFR part 10 as follows:

**PART 10—NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND  
REPATRIATION REGULATIONS**

1. The authority citation for part 10 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 470dd; 25 U.S.C. 9, 3001 et seq.

**§ 10.12 [Amended]**

2. In § 10.12:

a. In paragraph (g)(2) introductory text, remove “\$6,955” and add in its place “\$7,037”.

b. In paragraph (g)(3), remove “\$1,392” and add in its place “\$1,408”.

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George Wallace,  
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

Editorial note: This document was received for publication by the Office of the Federal Register on January 14, 2021.

[FR Doc. 2021-01303 Filed: 1/29/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 2/1/2021]